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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Do you support legislation increasing by as much as 50 percent fines for speed violations?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

BUSINESS

China's economic growth slowed in the final quarter of 2011 to its lowest rate in 2 1/2 years.

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ASIA

The Philippines' first impeachment trial of a Supreme Court justice opened Monday.

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WORLD

Italy's cruise liner tragedy turned into an environmental crisis Monday.

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Repeal of derivative suit law heads to Fitial

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

By a vote of 18-1 with one abstention, the House of Representatives passed yesterday a Senate bill repealing a four-month-old law allowing NMI Retirement Fund beneficiaries to sue on behalf of the pension agency if the board of trustees refuses to bring such legal action.

See BILL on Page 4

House rejects Senate amendments to bill on Fund contribution withdrawal

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The House of Representatives rejected yesterday the Senate's amendments to a House bill originally allowing non-retired members of the NMI Retirement Fund to withdraw their contributions from the pension agency without being required to resign from their job or being penalized, giving way to a conference committee composed of certain House and Senate members who will try to draft a compromise version of the bill.

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Obama requested to include US territories in new tax incentives

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Sablan

Congressional delegates of the five U.S. territories asked President Barack Obama to include the territories in a new tax incentives intended to encourage U.S. companies to create American jobs.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) joined Puerto Rico Delegate Pedro R. Pierluisi, Guam Delegate Madeleine Bordallo, U.S. Virgin Islands Delegate Donna Christensen, and American Samoa Delegate Eni F.H. Faleomavaega in writing the president a Jan. 12 letter about his announcement last week of tax incentives that he will propose in the coming weeks.

"We write to respectfully ask that you work with us to ensure that our constituents are fully and fairly included in any proposal that the Administration puts forward, bearing in mind the unique tax systems that apply in our jurisdictions," the delegates representing 4.1 million Americans living in the five U.S. territories told the president in a two-page letter.

In the last three years, the Obama administration has established a strong and consistent record of including the U.S. territories in tax-based initiatives designed to strengthen the national economy and reduce unemployment, the delegates said.

Among these are the February 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act which included

See OBAMA on Page 4

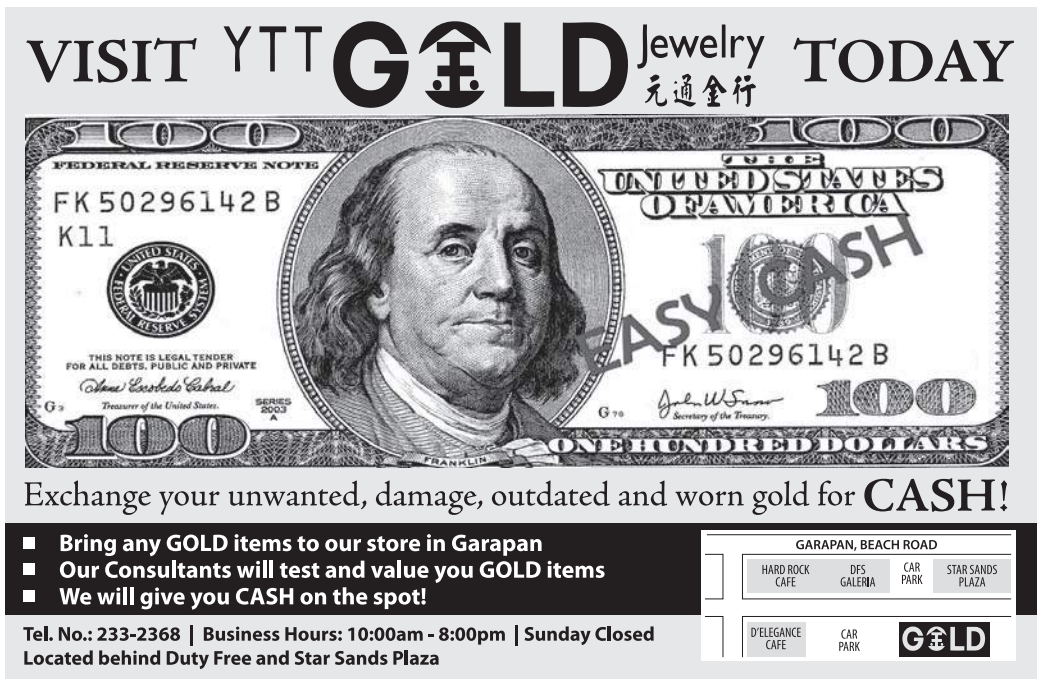
CLARISSA V. DAVID

LEARNING LOCAL CULTURE

Students from Moon Deok Elementary School in Korea learn about local culture by taking part in lei- and bead-making activities organized by the Saipan Mayor's Office yesterday at the Sugar King Park. ***See story on Page 8*** ➤

DPW: Saipan-Tinian 'ro-ro' ferry service to be studied. PAGE 2
'Senate initiative on Fund would stop all DPL programs.' PAGE 3

Local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DPW: Saipan-Tinian 'ro-ro' ferry service to be studied

The Department of Public Works will soon be taking on three new projects for the community that will include a ferry feasibility study between Saipan and Tinian.

Highway administrator Sonya Pangelinan Dancoe disclosed in an interview that the Route 1 feasibility study will look into the prospect of passenger and vehicle ferry services between the two islands.

The other two projects, she said, are the road improvement on Route 103 on Rota and the low-volume improvement project on Route 302 or the Naftan Road behind Airport Road on Saipan.

Dancoe noted that there had once been a ferry operation between Saipan and Tinian provided by Tinian Shipping and Transportation, Inc.

However, it suspended its services in March 2010, citing the need to undergo repairs to comply with the regulations of the American Bureau of Shipping.

Although Tinian Shipping and Transportation announced initially that it will only suspend the ferry service for up to six months, the company never brought it back, making it difficult for both locals and tourists to visit Tinian.

The feasibility study, Dancoe said, is also part of the transit requirement of the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration, which provides most of the funding of DPW.

"We are eligible to apply for land and sea infrastructure under FHA so we want to take advantage of this opportunity," Dancoe told *Saipan Tribune*.

Dancoe underscored the need for a feasibility study to prove the economic benefits of the passenger and vehicle ferry services between the two islands and to determine any environmental impacts.

"We want to explore new ways to boost traveling between Saipan and Tinian. With the passenger and vehicle ferry, people can easily mobilize from Saipan to Tinian and vice versa, cost of traveling will go down, and commodities can be transported on a cheaper rate," she said.

DPW secretary Martin C. Sablan, for his part, also emphasized that the ferry service will improve commerce and tourism in both islands.

Dancoe also pointed out that the feasibility study will also take into consideration operational and maintenance aspects of the proposed passenger and vehicle ferry services, adding that they plan to work with the Commonwealth Ports Authority on the said study.

"We want to do whatever we can to help our islands," added Dancoe.

Tinian Mayor Ramon M. Dela Cruz, when asked for comment, said in a phone interview yesterday that he is "a hundred percent in support of a roll-on-roll-off type of ferry between Saipan and Tinian, describing the service as "a great help" particularly for Tinian's commerce.

"You can imagine what kind of economic activities that are going to be generated between the islands once the ferry service commences," said Dela Cruz.

The mayor noted that the biggest problem on Tinian at present is bringing in merchandise from Saipan since Freedom Air and Star Marianas are handling their passenger transportation needs.

"Tinian Stevedore closed its doors in the latter part of October last year and we're left without a stevedoring company on island, he said.

Dela Cruz disclosed that they often ask for assistance from Saipan Stevedore when merchants have to bring their merchandise from Saipan to Tinian.

"Because of this, we've been encountering obstacles and it's creating a whole bunch of problems that add to the cost of bringing in commodities to Tinian," he said.

Dela Cruz expressed optimism that the feasibility study will reveal the serious need for the ferry service so that the government, through responsible agencies, will make the project a reality. ***(Clarissa V. David)***

Former candidate for House seat arrested for allegedly sexually abusing minor

Police arrested over the weekend a former candidate for a House's seat who allegedly sexually abused a minor girl at a residence.

Police served an arrest warrant to Juan Reyes Babauta at his residence in As Matuis on Saturday night for sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree.

Babauta, 52, was arrested for sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree.

At yesterday's hearing, Superior Court associate judge Joseph N. Camacho imposed a $25,000 cash bail on the 52-year-old Babauta.

Preliminary hearing will be on Jan. 26 at 9am.

Camacho appointed the Office of Public Defender to represent Babauta in the case.

Assistant public defender Daniel Guidotti served as counsel for the defendant. Assistant attorney general Nicole Driscoll appeared for the government.

Camacho said the defendant is allowed to file a motion for bail modification.

Detective Rudolfo Hermosilla stated in his report that preliminary investigation showed that, on Jan. 6, 2012 at 6pm, Babauta picked up a 12-year-old girl from a residence and brought her to a house in As Matuis, where he allegedly sexually assaulted her.

The detective said when he talked with Babauta last Jan. 10 he refused for further interview as he was allegedly instructed by his lawyer not to talk about the matter to the police.

Saipan Tribune learned that Babauta was GOP's candidate under Precinct 4 for the House during the 2009 election. He did not win. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

‘Senate initiative on Fund would stop all DPL programs’

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Public Lands Secretary Oscar M. Babauta said a Senate initiative transferring management decisions and revenue proceeds from public land golf course leases to the NMI Retirement Fund would essentially put on hold all Department of Public Lands programs, including long-awaited homestead projects on Rota and Tinian.

Babauta sent a two-page formal comment on Senate Legislative Initiative 17-13, Senate Substitute 1, Senate Draft 1 to the Special House Committee on Retirement Fund Issues.

Rep. Teresita Santos (Ind-Rota), chair of the special committee, said yesterday that the panel welcomes comments and recommendations from affected agencies such as DPL and the general public on how best to help prolong the Fund’s lifespan.

Babauta said SLI 17-13 protects DPL’s interest by mandating that 30 percent of proceeds from the golf course leases be kept by the department.

But he said this is the only protection provided.

“Considering that DPL currently receives 100 percent of proceeds from golf course leases, this is not in DPL’s interest,” Babauta told Santos.

Babauta said the biggest impact will be on DPL’s “ability to finally put to closure the long-awaited homestead projects currently been executed by DPL” on Rota and Tinian.

“Furthermore, the amendment would compel DPL to cease all work currently in progress, as both projects require substantial amount of financial resources to complete,” Babauta said.

Senate President Paul Manglona’s (Ind-Rota) initiative, which seeks to amend Article 11 of the NMI Constitution, also allows the Fund to lease public land golf courses for up to 99 years—instead of only up to 55 years—for $50 million or for an amount determined by two certified independent appraisals, whichever is greater.

Babauta said the initiative cannot impact current leases that DPL has with these golf courses.

“The current leases cannot be eliminated through constitutional amendment—such a move would constitute an impairment of contract because the golf courses would be without any ability to sue for the breach. Since the amendment can only apply prospectively, it is an open question whether the golf courses will want to renegotiate their leases with the Fund. The initiative, if passed, might have no practical effect right away other than taking revenue away from DPL,” Babauta added.

He also pointed out that public lands are only supposed to benefit people of Northern Marianas descent.

“With this proposed amendment, public lands would benefit all government employees regardless of NMD status. While the CNMI Constitution can be amended to reflect this, it goes against the spirit of Articles XI and XII,” he added.

The Marianas Public Land Trust also told the House special committee to give serious considerations to this and other Senate initiative which MPLT says “may do harm than good” and would make land lease interest income funds unavailable for other important programs and needs, among other things.

KICKOFF RALLY
Board of Education member Galvin Deleon Guerrero addresses participants of the Junior Achievement Company Program during a kickoff rally last Friday at the Saipan World Resort.

MONETH G. DEPOSA

That’s what Henry must have been doing on that sunny Saturday morning at the reef, because that’s what he caught. An eyeball. As he cast the fishing line, he hooked his daughter Natalie’s left eye. Not good. Using advanced microsurgical techniques, Marianas Eye Institute’s Dr. David Khorram performed the delicate surgery that removed the hook and saved Natalie’s vision.

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TURKEY B.L.T.
7 grams of fat on 6” subs*
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9th Circuit finds Rayphand not paying docketing, filing fees for appeal

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit has found out upon a review of the docket that Commonwealth Retirement Association board member Sapuro Rayphand has not paid the docketing and filing fees for his appeal.

The Ninth Circuit gave Rayphand 21 days to comply with its order or otherwise his appeal will be dismissed automatically by the clerk for failure to prosecute.

The Ninth Circuit ordered Rayphand to file a motion to proceed in *forma pauperis,* and pay $455 to the district court as the docketing and filing fees for this appeal.

Forma pauperis refers to a court's permission to an indigent to initiate a legal action without having to pay for court fees or costs due to the party's lack of financial resources.

The Ninth Circuit also ordered that the appellant (Rayphand) otherwise can show cause why the appeal should not be dismissed for failure to prosecute.

The Ninth Circuit said the filing of a motion to proceed in *forma pauperis* will automatically stay the briefing schedule under Ninth Circuit Rule 27-11.

Any motion to proceed in *forma pauperis* must include a financial declaration, the Ninth Circuit said.

On Sept. 8, 2011, Rayphand, through Bruce Jorgensen, has notified the District Court that he wants the Fund's lawsuit against the CNMI government to be removed from the Superior Court and transferred to the federal court.

Rayphand stated that it has been more than two years now since associate judge Govendo rendered a $230 million judgment in the case yet there has been little, if any, meaningful steps toward enforcement of that judgment.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated Judge Frances M. Tydingco-Gatewood last November issued a decision that found as improper Rayphand's removal of Fund's lawsuit.

Tydingco-Gatewood remanded the Fund's lawsuit to the Superior Court and ordered Rayphand to pay attorney's fees and costs to the Fund.

Tydingco-Gatewood noted that much of Rayphand's argument for intervention is nonsensical and unrelated to the issues at hand.

Rayphand appealed to the Ninth Circuit to reverse Tydingco-Gatewood's order.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

CHC board of trustees meeting today

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. board of trustees will hold a regular board meeting today, Jan 18, 11am at the administration building of the CHC conference room No. 2 at Lower Navy Hill. ***(PR)***

Marianas Pa'gu to feature Buckingham

Marianas Pa'gu: Marianas Perspectives, with host and producer John "Bolis" Gonzales will feature CNMI Attorney General Ed Buckingham today, Jan. 18, 2012, in a conversation about the AG's Office, its relationship with agencies, and who the AG is beholden to. Watch nightly during primetime on ABC Ch. 7 from 6pm to 7pm Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. Shows also air on www.betelnutradio.com. For questions, appearance, or sponsorship, contact 285-META (6382) or email johnogonzales@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

FOA's latest production feature 'The Miracle Worker'

All Friends of the Arts members and friends are being invited to watch their latest performance, The Miracle Worker, a moving story of Helen Keller and Annie Sullivan, this next weekend, Jan. 20 and 21 at 7pm and Jan. 22 at 3pm. All shows will be at the MHS Dolphin Theater (Bldg. T). Tickets cost $12 for FOA members,$15 for non-member adults and $8 for students and children over 4. Contact Frank Gibson at 287-7476 or flgibson@yahoo.com for tickets and reservations. ***(PR)***

Chamber Installation Dinner on Jan. 21

The 2012 Saipan Chamber of Commerce Officers and Directors Installation Dinner will be held this Jan. 21, 2012, at the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan's Hibiscus Hall. Jerry Tan, president of Tan Holdings, will be this year's keynote speaker. The Chamber will also announce its 2011 Businessperson of the Year award recipient. SCC will continue with its Installation Dinner tradition and hold a silent auction to raise funds for the Scholarship Awards Program.

Reservations for the $50-per-head dinner are being accepted. Reserve seating for the event by calling the Saipan Chamber of Commerce offices at 233-7150/7152, or send an email to coordinator@saipanchamber.com. ***(SCC)***

First aid/CPR/AED training dates

■ Adult First Aid/CPR/AED: Jan. 21, Saturday, 8am-1pm

■ Adult CPR/AED, Jan. 24, Tuesday, 6pm-9pm

■ First Aid: Jan. 25, Wednesday, 6pm-9pm

Contact the American Red Cross-Northern Mariana Islands Chapter at 234-3459 to register. To learn more, visit www.redcross.org/training. ***(ARC)***

BILL

From Page 1

Rep. Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) said he voted "no" mainly because the bill is from the Senate. Tenorio had said the Senate rejects or ignores his bills only because he authored those bills. Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan), meanwhile, abstained from voting.

Senate Bill 17-94, Senate Draft 1 now heads to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial for action.

The law that SB 17-94, SD1 seeks to repeal is Public Law 17-51 or the Beneficiary Derivative Lawsuit Act that then acting governor Eloy S. Inos signed in September.

The House's passage of the repealer bill yesterday also came five months after the House passed by a vote of 15-4 the conference committee bill that became the derivative lawsuit law.

Sixto Igisomar, chair of the Fund board of trustees, said yesterday he's "very happy" that the House passed the Senate repealer bill and hopes that the governor will immediately sign it into law.

Igisomar, present at the House session yesterday, said once the law is repealed, the Fund will be able to grow its investments and hopefully bring back former investment consultant and money managers.

PL 17-51 allows retirees to take legal action on behalf of trusts or the Fund when the trustees who manage them refuse to bring such actions.

Many of the Fund's service providers—including investment consultant Wilshire Associates, actuarial consultant Buck Consultants and majority of the money managers that handle the Fund's assets and portfolio—terminated their contracts with the Fund when the bill they felt had a negative impact on the pension agency was signed into law.

Igisomar said he's thankful for the Senate and the House for initiating a repeal of the law.

"It's not easy, that's why we're thankful for the Legislature and the Governor's Office," he said.

Igisomar said the initial $80 million in negative financial impact of the law may be greater because of opportunities lost in the investment market. He believes the adverse effect is greater now because of the opportunities lost in the investment market.

Since the Fund's investment consultant severed ties with the pension agency last year, the board has been liquidating the Fund's assets and putting the cash under the certificate of deposit account registry service, or CDARS program.

As of Dec. 27, 2011, some $90 million of the agency's $256.7 million assets has already been transferred to the program. The board's goal is to put all of its funds in the program until a new investment consultant is hired.

The original bill that became the derivative lawsuit law was a Senate bill. But both the House and Senate initiated bills to repeal the law.

The Senate had asked the House to allow for the passage of the Senate version instead. The Senate's wish was granted when the House passed the Senate bill yesterday, despite the release of a committee report that had already recommended passage of the House bill.

House Floor Leader George Camacho (Ind-Saipan), author of the House repealer bill, said it doesn't matter whether the repealer bill came from the House or the Senate. What matters most, he said, is that something will be done to help reverse the law's negative impacts on the Fund.

"The point is money managers left because of PL 17-51. We need to bring back the integrity of the Retirement Fund and try to mend the relationship with money managers. Right now, Fund money is sitting in trust funds and we know how much return they're getting—almost nothing," he said.

Senate Vice President Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian), one of the co-authors of the Senate repealer bill, said yesterday that the passage of the repealer measure is a step in the right direction to "help stabilize the Fund."

SB 17-94, SD1 was among the 23 bills and resolutions that were passed, introduced, rejected or recalled during the House's first session in 2012 yesterday.

House members introduced 20 bills, local bills and resolutions yesterday. Five of the resolutions were adopted.

House members also recalled their previous action rejecting an expungement bill by a vote of 18-2.

HOUSE

From Page 1

A motion to reject the Senate amendments to Speaker Eli Cabrera's (R-Saipan) House Bill 17-226 drew 14 "yes" votes and four "no" votes.

Two other members present did not vote. They were Reps. Tony Sablan (R-Saipan) and Ralph Demapan (Cov-Saipan). Demapan did not vote on the original bill.

The bill that was rejected was HB 17-226 House Draft 1, Senate Substitute 1, Senate Draft 2.

The only four who essentially supported the Senate amendments were Reps. Frank Dela Cruz (R-Saipan), Ray Tebuteb (R-Saipan), Janet Maratita (Ind-Saipan), and House minority leader Joseph Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan).

The House also passed yesterday a Senate bill repealing a four-month-old law allowing Fund beneficiaries to sue on behalf of the pension program if the board refuses to bring such legal action. ***(See separate story)***

Senators made several amendments to HB 17-226, including allowing non-retired members to "roll over" their Fund contributions to the Defined Contribution Plan, to help prolong the government pension agency's lifespan.

The Senate amendments also include a "hardship loan" provision so that members could borrow up to 50 percent of their contributions to the Fund.

Senators also included in the bill a revenue-generating provision or a funding mechanism wherein tax rebates will be cut. But some House members raised concern on the unconstitutionality of this amendment because any revenue-generating measure should originate from the House, not the Senate.

Sixto Igisomar, chair of the NMI Retirement Fund board of trustees, said yesterday he does not want to comment on the House's action on the Senate-amended bill at this time. But he said the Fund would welcome any opportunity to be asked for comments on the bill during the conference committee meetings and review. Igisomar was at the House session yesterday.

House Floor Leader George Camacho (Ind-Saipan) said the bill will now be reviewed by a joint committee from the House and Senate.

"The Senate made lengthy amendments to that. The bill is now almost night and day. Not that I'm against the Senate version in its entirety but it's very lengthy. We need to discuss that because they added so many different sections to it. We have to analyze each and every one (of the added sections)," he said.

While he has yet to fully review the Senate amendments, he said he is particularly concerned about the new section on tax rebate cuts not only because it's a revenue-generating provision but also because it may only cover Fund members and not the general public.

Tebuteb, for his part, said he supported the Senate amendments to the House bill, so he voted "no" to the motion to reject the Senate amendments.

Dela Cruz said he would have voted "yes" if the motion was to pass the bill as amended by the Senate.

"The Senate amendment had provision for funding mechanism," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

A portion or 12.5 percent of all the amounts paid to the government with respect to rebate taxes will not be placed into the general fund or commingled with other funds, under the Senate amendment.

That amount will be placed in a Retirement Refund Special Rebate Account, which will be used to pay government employees' retirement contribution refund or rollover without further appropriation.

Senators would have wanted the reduction in the rebate offset amount to take effect on Jan. 1, 2012.

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota), when asked for comment, said he's likely to appoint to the conference committee the same members he appointed to a Special Committee on Retirement Fund Issues headed by Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota).

Senate Vice President Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian) views a conference committee as an appropriate venue to "hash out the differences between the two versions" of

OBAMA

From Page 1

the territories in nearly all of its major provisions, including the Making Work Pay and American Opportunity tax credits.

In March 2010, the territories were also included in the Hiring Incentives to Restore Employment Act which, among other things, enabled an employer to take a $1,000 income tax credit for every new employee hired and retained for at least a year.

The territories were also fully and fairly included in all major pillars of the American Jobs Act, which the president transmitted to Congress in September 2011. The tax credit for hiring veterans was enacted into law in November 2011, and it included the territories.

DESPITE REVENUE SHORTFALL, BOARD CHAIR SAYS:

Closure not option for employees' credit union

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Government Employees' Credit Union is firm in its stand that despite the agency's revenue shortfall, closure is not an option.

Board chair Angel Hocog disclosed this to *Saipan Tribune* while admitting that the union is now seeking financial assistance from the NMI Retirement Fund, which is the main source of the program's $2 million operating fund.

The union recently wrote the Fund asking for additional $500,000 loan for the program's continuity and expansion. This request has been discussed by the pension agency which decided to inquire more information and details about the program's operations before a decision is made on its request for refinancing.

Fund officials disclosed the union diligently paid its monthly obligation on the $2-million loan it made in 1996 until it recently fell behind due to a significant drop in its revenues. The union did not disclose its revenue losses in its Dec. 15 letter to the Fund. It was disclosed, however, that besides the $500,000 additional loan the union is seeking a lower interest rate for the additional investment.

Hocog, in an interview with *Saipan Tribune*, cannot immediately say how much "losses" were incurred by the union or the current number of its members. He referred this reporter to the union's acting general manager Ruth Ann Sakisat, who later refused to disclose any information about the union.

"We are currently preparing our proposal for the investment loan refinancing request with the NMIRF. The information you are inquiring are part of the refinancing package which we are presently in the process of gathering, evaluating, summarizing and reporting to the board of directors," Sakisat told *Saipan Tribune* in an email, adding that the union cannot respond at this time on the media inquiry about the program.

According to Hocog, the drop in the program's revenue was also a result of the austerity measures implemented by the central government. The chairman said that membership could only increase if more employees are hired in the public sector.

"You have to remember that the government employees are the union's clients, the less employees enroll, the less business we get. And because of the austerity in the government, many employees withdrew their savings which caused the decrease in our numbers," he explained.

He said the union pays roughly $10,000 monthly for its $2 million original loan to the Fund. At present, more than half of the obligation has been fulfilled.

Citing other factors, Hocog also believes that because of the present financial hardship being experience by employees, even raising $50 to open an account with the union has been very difficult for some employees at this time. "With their reduced work hours, employees are really struggling to meet all their needs. It is also one reason why they come to us [and apply for loan]," he added.

Hocog said the refinancing package is only one the options being eyed by the union to ensure the continuity of its program. The union is a non-profit government corporation formed in February 1995 through legislation.

$4.5M unremitted MOE to public schools bared

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Public School System disclosed yesterday that the central government has yet to remit a significant amount from the maintenance-of-effort requirement of the state fiscal stabilization fund monies awarded to the CNMI two years ago.

PSS federal programs officer Tim Thornburgh told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that approximately $4.5 million "remains owed" to date by the central government. This amount covers fiscal years 2010 and 2011.

It was two years ago when the system was awarded $32.4 million in total SFSF monies which was authorized for expenditure until Sept. 30, 2011. For the first phase of the grant, over $22 million was received by PSS, while the second phase provided PSS $10.1 million in assistance.

These funds were utilized in renovation and modernization of all schools, helped teachers to become highly qualified, improved school and after-school programs, student academic activities, and a significant portion was utilized in paying for the salary of a certain number of teachers and utility payments.

Thornburgh said he is currently working with Michael Ada of the CNMI-ARRA office to finalize the numbers and is hopeful that the central government will remit the funds within the fiscal year.

He, however, admitted that negotiation is "still ongoing" between the central government and PSS regarding the "unaudited" numbers. Thornburgh said once both books for fiscal years 2010 and 2011 are closed, final numbers will be determined.

This fiscal year 2012, PSS is only appropriated $30 million for its personnel and all others. Because all SFSF funds expired in September last year, Thornburgh said the unremitted MOE will help PSS pay for its personnel and utilities costs. PSS has over a thousand employees of which a little over 500 are classroom teachers. Each payroll, their salaries are estimated at $1.1 million. Its monthly utilities consumption is $400,000—or $4.8 million until the end of the fiscal year.

The federal programs officer revealed that compared to FY 2011, PSS is anticipating lower federal monies this fiscal year as a result of the expiration of state fiscal stabilization fund under the American Recovery Reinvestment Act of President Barrack Obama.

Thornburgh said PSS has expended a total of $57.5 million in federal grants (including SFSF) in FY 2011.

He said that in FY 2012, PSS only had a "sure" federal assistance of over $30 million which is the consolidation of all its regular grant assistance every year. Although there are other small grant awards and applications being pursued at present, he said awarding and disbursement have yet been finalized.

Thornburgh said yesterday ARRA funding is so far the biggest investment for CNMI public schools in the past 23 years.

Saipan Tribune learned that the only thing that compares to it was the general obligation bond in 1998 when PSS received $32 million which amount included the 50 percent local matching fund. In 1998, PSS built new schools.

Besides the unremitted MOE for ARRA monies, PSS officials earlier disclosed that the central government also owes the system some $7 million in "roll over" funds from previous years. The roll over funds represent non-remitted budget allotments of PSS in fiscal years 2010 and 2011. *Saipan Tribune* learned that in the last two fiscal years, federal funds supplemented the delayed and non-remittance of the local budget.

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Head Start: Only 6 classroom teachers have degrees

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Head Start program reported that out of 31 classroom teachers in the program, only a few of them have bachelor degrees.

However, Head Start director Melissa Palacios disclosed to *Saipan Tribune* that she is optimistic that by school year 2013, the CNMI will fulfill the mandate of the federal government to have at least 50 percent of the program's classroom teachers attain the bachelor degree requirement.

At present, Palacios revealed that only six of the 31 teachers have bachelor degrees, including one teacher that was expected to graduate last December. The Public School System, she said, was given a deadline of until 2013 to at least have half of its teacher population obtain bachelor degrees.

Of the 31 classroom teachers, the director reported that 16 have associate degrees and are all currently working on their BA degrees at the Northern Marianas College. Confident with these teachers' commitment to the job, Palacios said by next year the program may have more than half of its teachers holding bachelor degrees.

"50 percent plus one is what we're aiming for 2013. We have now six [BA degree holders] and since those with AA degrees are working on their BA degrees, we're expecting our number to go up," she told *Saipan Tribune*, adding that she continues to monitor the staffing progress to ensure that the federal mandate will be met.

Saipan Tribune learned that for many years, the Head Start program lost certified and highly qualified teachers to elementary schools.

According to Palacios, classroom teachers for the Head Start program are provided salaries based also on the PSS HQT Compensation Plan which provides annual wages ranging from $28,000 to $35,000 depending on the teachers' credentials and qualifications.

Palacios admitted to *Saipan Tribune* that because of limited local funding for the school system, salaries for anticipated BA holders may be affected.

The CNMI Head Start is a federally funded program under the Department of Health and Human Services, which provides developmental services for low-income children ages 3 to 5 and social services for their families. There are 10 centers on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. Enrolled children and their families receive services in education, health, parent involvement, and social services. The program has an annual budget of $1.8 million of which over $300,000 is from local government. Each year, the program is mandated to serve only 462 children and as of last week, 121 kids are on its wait list.

Palacios also reported to the Board of Education that the program remains compliant with federal requirements such as the mandated 10 percent enrollment of children with disabilities. This school year there are 58 students with disabilities under the program, which represents 13 percent of the entire population.

Manglona disagrees with Vietnam-based lawyer's lawsuit venue arguments

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona has disagreed with Vietnam-based lawyer Barry Israel's argument that her recent ruling over a jurisdiction issue supports his claim that the CNMI is not the proper venue of Junior Larry Hillbroom's lawsuit against him.

"Israel is wrong for two reasons," said Manglona in her order issued on Thursday that denied the lawyer's motion to allow him to file supplemental legal brief in support of his motion to dismiss Hillbroom's lawsuit.

Manglona said first, in her ruling in the civil case filed by Sin Ho Nam against attorney Ramon K. Quichocho and Joaquin Q. Atalig, she did not make a new law.

The judge said in her ruling she merely applied longstanding precedent established by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit in two cases.

In her recent ruling in Nam's case, Manglona denied for lack of jurisdiction Nam's motion to enforce his lawsuit's settlement agreement with Quichocho and Atalig.

In that case, Manglona stated that a court has jurisdiction to enforce a settlement agreement only if it expressly retained such jurisdiction or otherwise embodied the settlement contract in the dismissal order.

In denying Israel's motion, Manglona said this law was available to Israel when he briefed his motion to dismiss and when he replied to Hillbroom's opposition brief.

Second, Manglona said, Hillbroom has not brought a motion in CNMI Superior Court to enforce the global settlement agreement in Hillblom's probate.

Hillbroom, according to Manglona, has brought a new cause of action in a different court—a remedy that is not foreclosed by the Ninth Circuit's precedent rulings.

Israel, through counsel Theodore W. Frank, cited that Manglona's order in Nam's case expressed that there can be no continuing jurisdiction over a settlement if not expressed in the court's order of dismissal.

Frank argued that Manglona's ruling is applicable to Israel's case and deprives the district court of venue with respect to actions concerning the 1997 Global Settlement Agreement of the Hillblom Probate Estate.

Frank added that the CNMI courts have now three times confirmed that the Hillblom case closed with the issuance of the estate closure orders in April and May 2000.

Hillbroom is the reported DNA-proven son of the late business tycoon Larry Lee Hillblom. Israel is among the lawyers who represented Hillbroom in the probate case. He wants the lawsuit either dismissed or instead transferred to Guam.

Hillbroom is suing Israel in district court for allegedly conspiring to inflate the attorney's contingency fee when Hillblom's fortune was still undergoing probate proceedings.

Air Force training on Farallon de Medinilla

SANTA RITA, Guam—The U.S. Air Force will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla on Jan. 20, from 11am to 4pm.

The public, especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators, are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10-nautical mile radius on all quadrants. Farallon de Medinilla plays a special and unique role in national defense because its location provides access frequency that supports established training requirements. In addition, the air and sea space in the Farallon provides sufficient room for the many different attack profiles necessary to replicate training opportunities in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth Cancer Association
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COMMONWEALTH CANCER ASSOCIATION GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

All friends, volunteers, partners, and clients of the Commonwealth Cancer Association (CCA), and all members of the community, are invited to the general membership meeting on Tuesday, January 31st, 2012 at 6:00pm at CCA's Conference Room.

The agenda will include annual reports of the President and Treasurer; election of three CCA Board members; and opportunity for public comments. Nominations for board members will be accepted in advance and on the floor.

To submit a board nomination, or for more information, contact CCA at 682-0050 or email cca@ccamarianas.org.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM – OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
A&E DESIGN OF THE ROTA SANITARY LANDFILL- PHASE I
RFP12-GOV-036

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lieutenant Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Office, (collectively, "Commonwealth") are soliciting sealed proposals from qualified consultants to provide A&E Design of the Rota Sanitary Landfill- Phase I, located at Tatagchog on Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001, or latest revision thereof. Public Law 15-95 Local Preference Act, as amended by Public Law 15-118 does not apply to this federally funded project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands (CNMI).

The complete Scope of Work for the A&E design services required will be available on Thursday, January 12, 2012 at the Governor's CIP Office, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, CNMI. A non-refundable payment of Fifty Dollars (US $50.00) is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the CIP Office, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building on Capitol Hill. Questions regarding the Request for Proposal (RFP) must be submitted in writing to Mr. James R. Stump, CIP Contracting Officer, CIP Office, or faxed to (670) 664-2408, no later than 4 p.m., ChST Tuesday, January 26, 2012.

Proposers must submit with their proposal a project approach and a schedule of completion, addressing the scope of work requirements with details of how the work will be performed and accomplished by the consultants, with the names of the responsible persons identified and experiences of the responsible individuals of the team. The total proposal length shall not exceed fifty (50) pages in length. Note, a firm that submits a proposal as a prime consultant cannot also submit as a subcontractor on another proposal. However, as a subcontractor, the consultant may be included in multiple proposals by different consultants.

Proposals will be evaluated and scored based on the following criteria:

1.	Qualifications and background of the company(s) and proposed assigned personnel	- 25%
2.	Past experience of the consultant on design of similar projects	- 20%
3.	Project approach and schedule for completion	- 35%
4.	Demonstrated capability of ability to perform the work required	- 20%

Performance time for completion of the A&E Design of the Rota Sanitary Landfill- Phase I is One Hundred Eighty (180) calendar days upon issuance of a Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed and shall be the greater of (i) Two Hundred Dollars (US$200.00), or (ii) two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by the number of calendar days of the contract time, the contract time and contract price being determined at the time of the assessment of liquidated damages for each and every day beyond the established completion date.

Discussions shall be conducted with the top three ranked (3) firms. After a selection is made, negotiations will be conducted with the highest qualified firm to determine the final fair and reasonable price of the contract for the work to be performed. The successful proposers will be subjected to a responsibility and responsiveness determination in compliance with Section 3-301 of the CNMI Procurement Regulations.

Proposals must be sealed and marked "**RFP12- GOV-036, A&E Design of the Rota Sanitary Landfill- Phase I**". For proposers within the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of the proposals must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, MP, no later than 10:00 a.m. ChST, February 13, 2012. Proposers located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of intent to propose. Notices of intent to propose must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m., ChST, February 13, 2012 and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of the sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than, February 13, 2012, and must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than February 22, 2012. Failure to submit the required number of copies of the proposal may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfection in any proposal if, in its opinion to do so would be in the best interests of the CNMI government. All proposals shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/s/ Eloy S. Inos, Lieutenant Governor
/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director of Procurement & Supply

PIC commemorates Orthodox New Year

»193 Russians join 'Back to the Future'-themed event

Russian guests enjoy the various activities at Friday's event. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Pacific Islands Club web and Russian marketing manager Elly Stoilova smiles to a guest during the New Year's Eve party on Jan. 13.

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Close to 200 Russians took part in the Orthodox New Year celebration at the Pacific Islands Club on Jan. 13, a record-breaking feat according to web and Russian market marketing manager Elly Stoilova.

Stoilova said Monday that they usually have between 140 to 160 guests. This year, though, they had 193 guests partying during the "Back to the Future"-themed event.

"Most of the guests who came to the New Year's Eve party also enjoyed our Russian Orthodox Christmas party," Stoilova told *Saipan Tribune*.

The Christmas party, which was held on Jan. 7, also broke records with 230 guests who delighted in the festivity.

Stoilova noted that their Russian guests planned in advance their holiday stay on island, which allowed them to enjoy the PIC parties.

She said guests were delighted to see the venue which was adorned with futuristic props, including UFOs and time machines, with silver decors and lights to compliment the look.

Stoilova said staff of PIC's Food and Beverage, Engineering, Clubmates, and Sales departments completed the fantasy theme as they were clad in fantasy costumes like a Star Trek character getup, aliens, astronauts, and secret laboratory technician outfit.

She also said that Russian celebrities MC Pospelov and DJ Rogozin provided entertainment at the party until after midnight before going to the airport to fly back to Russia.

"MC Pospelov and DJ Rogozin also dressed as heroes from the movie "Back to the Future" and created a fun and exciting party atmosphere through various games and activities, songs, and dancing," added Stoilova.

Bright, multicolored fireworks lit up the sky at 10pm to celebrate the coming of the New Year, said Stoilova, who pointed out that the fireworks were lit early so as not to disturb other hotel guests of different nationalities.

"Although it was New Year's Eve, it was a celebration only for the Russian guests, and the Russian guests did understand that," explained Stoilova.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Guests show their costume creativity following the celebration's "Back to the Future" theme.

Some of the guests flaunt their costumes. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Over 1K students register for NMC Spring 2012 semester

Over a thousand students have registered at Northern Marianas College for the Spring 2012 semester, which classes officially started yesterday.

The college opened its registration period last week and records show that on the last day of enrollment, Jan. 13, there were a total of 1,074 students who had enrolled for classes in various programs and courses. The figure is a slight increase from what was recorded on the same period in Spring 2011 semester with 1,061 students.

In a statement to *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, NMC indicated that enrollment may continue to increase as late registration is ongoing until Friday this week. Final number of enrollees will be determined after Jan. 20 upon the close of late enrollment. Breakdown of enrollees per program is currently not available, according to the college.

NMC announced yesterday that it is not too late for students who still wish to enroll in the Spring 2012 semester. It added that additional English and math placement tests have been also scheduled this week. For more details about these schedules, NMC encourages the public to visit its website: www.nmcnet.educ.

According to NMC, there were more than 400 students who registered on the first day of weeklong registration period. Then acting president Leo Pangelinan, also the dean of the student services, earlier told *Saipan Tribune* that registration went smoothly and lauded the collaborative efforts of the college offices, volunteers, and students.

NMC is currently addressing its probation status with the Accrediting Commission for Community Junior Colleges.

Saipan Tribune learned that NMC president Sharon Y. Hart recently returned from the commission assembly where she, along with Board of Regents chair Juan Lizama, gave testimonials to the commission. A decision on NMC's accreditation is expected next month. ***(Moneth G. Deposa)***

FOR ORDERING HIM TO COOK RICE

Man allegedly beats up girlfriend with broom

A man who was asked by his girlfriend to cook rice for their children allegedly assaulted her with a head-butt and a broom in Chalan Kanoa over the weekend.

Moses Kaipat Buekis, 26, was arrested for assault with a dangerous weapon and assault and battery.

Police said the victim suffered a bruise to the upper right knee.

At yesterday's hearing, Superior Court associate judge Joseph N. Camacho imposed a $6,000 cash bail for the defendant's temporary release.

Camacho appointed the Office of Public Defender to represent Buekis.

Detective JB K. Cepeda stated in his report that two police officers responded to a residence in Chalan Kanoa on Saturday at noon after receiving a call about domestic violence.

Cepeda said the victim told one of the officers that prior to the attack, she asked Buekis to cook rice for their children, but he just ignored her.

When the girlfriend insisted, Buekis got up from bed and allegedly head-butted her. He then took a broom and began striking it at her on the legs and hip.

Police then arrested the defendant. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM – OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: (670) 664-2375 • Fax: (670) 664-2408

ADDENDUM NO. 1
1/11/12
RFP12-GOV-036
A&E Design of the Rota Sanitary Landfill - Phase I

The previously advertised notice, Request for Proposal ("RFP") for the *"A&E Design of the Rota Sanitary Landfill-Phase I"* has been amended. The specific amendment is to include a pre-proposal conference. Amendment shall read:

A pre-proposal conference is schedule for this RFP on Monday, January 23, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. in the CIP Office conference room, Capitol Hill. This meeting is not mandatory for bid submission.

All other elements of the RFP remain as originally provided. For further information on this project, please contact the CIP Office at (670) 664-2375 or by fax (670) 664-2408, during working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. – Monday through Thursday, except holidays).

EARN UP TO 3 CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION (CPE) CREDITS

GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTING UPDATES BY LEALAN (LEE) MILLER, CPA PARTNER, EIDE BAILLY LLP

SPONSORED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTANTS, CNMI CHAPTER

When: Thursday, January 19, 2012

Time: 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
Registration begins at 8:30am

Location: Giovanni, Hyatt Regency Saipan

Seminar Fee: $60 Per Person, Buffet lunch is included

Registration Deadline: Wednesday, January 18, 2012

To register or for more information, please contact Glenda P. Cabrera at 322-7337 ext. 237 or via email at glendacabrera@deloitte.com

CNMI, Guam eye lifting betel nut export, import ban

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI and Guam may soon be lifting the ban that prevents them from importing and exporting betel nuts after officials have initiated talks regarding this initiative.

Arctic Circle Air vice president on agriculture and community relations Herman R. Guerrero made the announcement during the farmers meeting held at the Northern Marianas Trades Institute last week.

Guerrero disclosed that Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) has met with Guam Gov. Eddie Calvo and discussed how to open up the betel nut market between the two jurisdictions.

At present, Guerrero said that the CNMI cannot ship its betel nut produce to Guam and vice versa.

"As long as it is not a federal regulation that's preventing us from selling our betel nut in Guam, I think the Guam governor will open it for us. We are working on that and we'll be meeting with Guam officials regarding this," he told some 60 farmers who attended the meeting.

A former senator, Guerrero said in an interview that betel nut used to be a big business among farmers since they were allowed to market their produce to Guam.

Agricultural consultant Isidoro Cabrera said in a separate interview that there are close to 120,000 betel nut trees in production on Saipan.

Cabrera disclosed that the bud rot disease, a fungi infection that affected betel nut trees on Saipan, caused the implementation of the betel nut ban.

"But the disease started in Guam and then it moved to the CNMI," Cabrera told *Saipan Tribune*.

Because of the ban, Guerrero said Guam restricted betel nut coming from the CNMI and has since imported only Yap betel nut.

"The senate president says that based on his discussion with the governor of Guam, if it is not a federal issue, if it is not a federal regulation, then they can work things out together," said Guerrero.

Should the ban be lifted, Guerrero emphasized that it will lead to a lot of opportunities for betel nut growers in the Commonwealth as they can make income by taking a portion of the betel nut import in Guam.

The onset of Arctic Circle Air, Guerrero added, will enable the shipment of CNMI betel nut to Guam and "begin to stimulate the economy, maybe even begin to grow the economy back gradually."

"The good thing is we found the market," said Guerrero. "The other good thing is that we found an airplane and we can challenge the high cost of freight."

According to Guerrero, the current freight cost is "very prohibitive." He noted that Arctic Circle Air is not competing with local airlines since they are in the cargo service, not passenger.

Guerrero said they heard that freight cost recently dropped to around $0.50 to $0.60 per lb, from its previous rate of over $1, "thanks to us."

"We haven't started but we're making an impact already," said Guerrero.

Korean students learn about local culture

»Mayor says exchange students to serve as CNMI liaison

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Mayor Donald G. Flores and his staff are flanked by students from Moon Deok Elementary School in Korea during a break from their lei-and bead-making activities at the Sugar King Park yesterday.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Students from Moon Deok Elementary School in Korea learn how to make bead accessories from Saipan Mayor's Office staffers at the Sugar King Park yesterday. A total of 14 students arrived with adult chaperones on Dec. 26 for a cultural exchange program. The visiting group is scheduled to leave on Jan. 21.

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Fourteen visiting students from Moon Deok Elementary School in Korea gained knowledge about the local culture from Saipan Mayor's Office staffers yesterday morning.

Executive secretary Vinycia Seman and Rina Teuira taught the students, who arrived on island last Dec. 26, about lei-making using fresh hand-picked plumeria, orchids, and hibiscus leaves. The students also learned how to make bead accessories.

Yesterday's activities held at the Sugar King Park were part of the cultural exchange program of the Korean students, said Teuira.

"We wanted to teach the visiting students about local culture and extend the spirit of Hafa Adai and Tiro Wami to them," Teuira told *Saipan Tribune*. "I really like them because they're so into it."

Seman said the visiting group will meet with the island's *man'amko* today and learn about weaving tomorrow.

Kwon Jung Ean, 11, said she preferred lei-making over bead-making but had fun doing both.

Kim Byoung Hoon, for his part, said he's enjoying his first visit to Saipan. "I like Saipan. I like the beach because it's very clean."

Ten-year-old Noh Han Min said he will tell his family and friends back in Korea about Saipan's beautiful waters and coconut trees so they, too, can visit the island and see it for themselves.

Mayor Donald G. Flores, who took time to check on the students, said he is pleased to see the students enjoying the activities and expressed full support for cultural exchange programs between CNMI and other nations.

"We're very grateful that they are here on island. We should be accommodating these exchange students because they serve as our liaisons to their families and friends back home," said Flores in an interview.

Flores said that cultural exchange students can be another good tourist market for the Commonwealth since they share with others their worthwhile experience which in turn encourages them to also visit the islands.

Concert pianist Roman Rudnytsky to perform at UOG

Concert pianist Roman Rudnytsky will perform in the CLASS Lecture Hall on the University of Guam campus on Jan. 21 at 7:30pm. Tickets are $10 at the door.

Rudnytsky, a graduate of the Juilliard School in New York, has been a member of the piano faculty of the Dana School of Music at Youngstown State University in Youngstown, Ohio since 1972. He is a recipient of that institution's "Distinguished Professor Award" in recognition of his concert activities. He previously served on the piano faculties of the Indiana University School of Music (Bloomington, Indiana) and the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory, in addition to being "Artist-in-Residence" at two Australian universities.

Rudnytsky has performed with various orchestras around the world and the University of Guam is pleased to showcase his amazing talent for this singular performance and invites all music lovers and piano enthusiasts to attend. ***(UOG)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Jan. 18, 1999

CPA presses ahead with port fees hike

The Commonwealth Ports Authority will meet with the Legislature and airline executives this week to explain the urgency of carrying out a rate increase at the airport so that it can repay its $53 million debt. Carlos H. Salas, executive director, said he will discuss with officials of Continental Micronesia and Northwest Airlines on Guam the planned rate hike. A similar meeting was also held with Japan Airlines executives. A week ago, CPA officials led by board chairman Roman S. Palacios talked to Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio seeking his support on the rate increase. Amid mounting losses from its operation, Salas had expressed concern that the ports authority will not be able to meet the required 1.25 percent debt service requirement. If the ports authority fails to implement an increase, it will be forced to seek subsidy from the government to be able to pay for its obligations, he said.

House acts on retirement bill

The House of Representatives has set in motion an administration's request to remove a retirement bonus given to civil service employees in fear the benefits may throw the cash-strapped government into deeper financial woes. A bill grandfathering those employees eligible to receive the bonus passed the House last Friday as members assured recent retirees that they will receive their money once the local revenue collections improve in the next few years. Rep. Heinz Hofschneider, author of House Bill 11-359, said the proposed measure will guarantee payment of the bonus equivalent to 30 percent of the employee's annual salary at the end of his government service.

Jan. 18, 2000

Debt-to-equity conversion for CUC's $107-M loan eyed

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation is hoping to retire its debt amounting close to $107 million through a plan which will be announced by next month as part of the efforts to forge ahead with the new power project proposal for Saipan. CUC Executive Director Timothy P. Villagomez has been tasked by the board to develop the scheme to wipe out its mounting financial obligations to the Commonwealth Development Authority. According to CDA Board Chairman John S. Tenorio, the government's chief lending agency will propose a debt-to- equity conversion which will be more acceptable to them than other options, including debt forgiveness.

DEQ asks Legislature's help on water monitoring

The Division of Environmental Quality is planning to seek assistance from the Legislature to acquire a laboratory equipment that will cut the huge cost of chemical monitoring of water systems in the CNMI. DEQ Director Ike Cabrera said the lack of necessary facility in Saipan prevents the agency from conducting the water analysis on 84 organic and 15 inorganic chemicals. DEQ would have to send its samples to a laboratory in California since its laboratory cannot carry out the analysis on pesticide and other industrial chemicals. Based on preliminary assessment, a brand new equipment will cost $100,000. But DEQ is looking at acquiring the second hand equipment for $50,000 from Guam.

Jan. 18, 2001

House may accept changes to Kobler bill

The House of Representatives will likely accept amendment inserted by the Senate on the measure appropriating $2.4 million for the much-delayed Koblerville housing project when it resumes session on January 29. Acting Speaker Oscar M. Babauta yesterday assured he does not see any problem approving the rider to the House bill, saying "it will not necessarily impede the project or halt its construction." During its session the other day, the upper house made a last-minute decision to insert a provision which commits $1 million in interest expected to be earned from the $60 million bond flotation of the Commonwealth Development Authority to be divided equally to fund capital improvement projects on Rota and Tinian.

AGO advise on betel nut advisory sought

Baffled over the legal definition of transporting betel nut locally and from outside places, the CNMI Food and Nutrition Council is seeking clarity to a pending issue stated under the Betel Nut Awareness Announcement. The Council is planning to release the announcement to the community. Chair Pamela Mathis said the Council is awaiting legal advise from the Attorney General's Office on the lawful interpretation of transporting within the CNMI or other places betel nut for local consumption. "The legal edit involving the statement on the transportation of betel nut of persons entering the Commonwealth has not been clarified yet," Ms. Mathis told Council members during a meeting yesterday.

Docomo's Shedd wins *GBM* Executive of the Year

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

2011 *Guam Business Magazine* Executive of the Year Jay R. Shedd, Docomo Pacific president and chief executive officer, and Guam Gov. Edward B. Calvo, left, hold up the *Guam Business Magazine* January-February issue where Shedd is featured during the publication's executive of the year gala at the Hyatt Regency Guam last Jan. 14.

TAMUNING, Guam—Jay R. Shedd, president and chief executive officer of Docomo Pacific, was named the 2011 *Guam Business Magazine* Executive of the Year on Jan. 14 at the 29th annual *Guam Business Magazine* Executive of the Year gala at the Hyatt Regency Guam.

Shedd, 51, was among six nominees on the slate for the annual award program which recognizes executives who have made outstanding contributions to the local business community and raised the bar in the field in which they are involved. Shedd is featured in portraiture on the cover of the *Guam Business Magazine* January-February issue which was released at the gala concurrently with the announcement of the winner's name.

During his time with Docomo Pacific, Shedd has overseen Docomo's rebranding from GuamCell Communications to its current status, and led the company to a record $47 million revenue goal for fiscal 2011.

After graduating high school in 1978, he studied chemistry at California State University before leaving in 1983 to begin his career in communications. He later returned to school and graduated from Arizona State University in 2009 with a bachelor's in liberal studies.

Shedd started in the telecommunications industry in 1983 as a radio communications representative for Motorola Communications and Electronics in California. In 1994 he moved to Guam to serve as the senior vice president, general manger, and corporate office for GuamCell Communications Inc.

After working with GuamCell for nine years, he moved to Arizona from 2001 to 2007 to join RevoTech LLC as chief operating officer and partner. In 2005, Shedd worked as an investor and realtor for Keller Williams Realty, where he remained until 2008, when he returned to Guam to assume his current position with Docomo Pacific.

Shedd served in 2009 and 2010 as the chairman of the board of the Guam Chapter of the American Red Cross and continues to participate in the chapter's activities. He is a member of the Andersen Civilian Advisory Council and the Guam Chamber of Commerce's Armed Forces Committee. He is a member of the Rotary Club of Guam.

He and his wife, Sheila, have four children: Erica, 18, Aiyana, 14, Hayden, 9, and Shane, 6.

Shedd joins past Executive of the Year recipients who include Robert H. Jones of Triple J Enterprises (1983); John M. Borlas of IT&E Overseas Inc. (1984); Philip J. Flores of Bank-Pacific (1985); Doris Flores Brooks of the Office of Public Accountability (1986); Mark V. Pangilinan of M.V. Pangilinan Enterprises Inc. (1987); Allen A. Pickens of Tax-Aide (1988); the late T. Roy Sullivan of Jones & Guerrero Co. (1989); Kurt S. Moylan of Moylan's Insurance (1990); Akira "Mike" Baba of Baba Corp. (1991); Paul M. Calvo of Calvo Enterprises Inc. (1992); Antoinette D. Sanford of the Sanford Technology Group (1993); the late Kenneth T. Jones of Jones & Guerrero Co. (1994); the late Edward M. Calvo of Calvo Enterprises Inc. (1995); of Money Resources Inc. (1996); William R. Thompson (1997); John K. Lee of First Hawaiian Bank (1998); the late Henry L. Schnabel of Calvo's Insurance Underwriters (1999); of DFS Saipan (2000); Manfred H. Pieper of the Conrad Bangkok (2001); Thomas G. Ahillen of Asia Pacific Solutions LLC (2002); Juan T. Guerrero of Herman's Modern Bakery Inc. (2003); Joey Crisostomo of Cars Plus LLC, Cycles Plus and Payless Car Rental (2004); Joseph "Jerry" Kramer of Pacific International Inc. (2004); David M. Sablan of Century Group of Companies (2005); Alfred C. Ysrael of Tanota Partners (2006); Lee P. Webber of the Honolulu Advertiser (2007); of First Hawaiian Bank (2008); Jerry Cho Yee Tan of Tan Holdings Inc. (2009); and Lourdes A. "Lou" Leon Guerrero of Bank of Guam (2010).

The other five 2011 *Guam Business Magazine* Executive of the Year nominees were: James L. Adkins, president, East-West Rental Center Inc. and East-West Business Center Inc.; Michael R. Ady, president, M80 Office Systems Inc.; John T. Calvo, president and general manager, Mid Pacific Distributors Inc.; Ronald E. Cannoles, executive vice president and Pacific Islands Division manager, Bank of Hawaii; and Eloy S. Lizama, executive vice president, chief operating officer and chief financial officer, IP&E Holdings Inc.

The annual *Guam Business Magazine* Executive of the Year gala is a fundraising event for the Guam chapter of the American Red Cross. This year's event drew approximately 300 people. For any questions or inquiries, please contact Frank Whitman, managing editor of *Guam Business Magazine* at 671-649-0883 or managingeditor@glimpsesofguam.com. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth I Sankattan Siha Na Islas Mariana
Ofisinan I Gubietno
Dipåttamenton I Tano' Pupbliku

NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEASE OF PUBLIC LAND

In accordance with Section 106 (b) of Public Law 15-2, the Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent to lease certain public lands in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any interested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the lease of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 15-2, the following pertinent information is required to be published.

i. The proposed lease of public land is described as Lot No. 094 D 03, containing an area of approximately 951 square meters, more or less, situated in Garapan, Saipan. A copy of the location of the parcel is available at the Department of Public Lands for inspection.

ii. The prospective lessee is Man Bao Corporation, a CNMI Corporation. The Directors of the Corporation are Cheung, Pingyin and Yuan, Beihua.

The President/Treasurer of the Corporation is Cheung, Pingyin and the Vice-President/Secretary is Yuan, Beihua.

iii. The proposed lease was negotiated by Mr. Antonio Rasiang.

iv. The lessee shall use the premises solely for the purpose of developing and managing a facility with several business activities such as tour agency, a restaurant, a car rental, automobile repair shop, and related operations.

The term of the proposed lease agreement is 25 years, with an option to extend the lease for an additional 15 years.

The proposed annual rental during the term is based on a percentage of the appraised fair market value of the property, including existing structure(s).

v. A copy of the proposed lease agreement may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan; Songsong Village, Rota; or the 1st floor of the Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.

vi. The Department of Public Lands has received no alternative proposals to lease the subject public land in Garapan, Saipan.

vii. The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views, arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before January 26, 2012 at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian.

NUTISIA PUT MAPROPONIN INEKSTENDIN INATKILON TANU' PUPBLIKU

Sigun gi Seksiona 106(b) gi Lain Pupbliku 15-2, i Dipattamentun Tånu' Pupbliku guini ha nå'i nutisia ni intensionña para u mana'ma'atkila pumalu na tånu' pupbliku siha giya Saipan, Commonwealth gi Sangkattan na Islas Marianas siha. Maseha håyi na pattida siha gi halum i pupbliku henerât siña ha na'hålum i imfotmasion, opiñon, pat testamoñun kinentra siha gi tinahguin propositu siha ni para i atkilon tånu' pupbliku. Sigi mås mo'na mapribeniyi ginin i Lain Pupbliku 15-2, i tinattitiyi pettanesin imfotmasion ni madimånda ni debi na u mapupblika.

i. I maproponi na atkilon tånu' pupbliku ha diskribi kumu Lot No. Lot No. 094 D 03, ni kinonsisti åria kåsi guaha 951 square meters, mås pat menus, ni gaigi giya Garapan, Saipan. I kopian i lugåt gaigi gi pumalu na gumuaha gi Dipattamentun Tånu' Pupbliku siha ni para i rikunosimientu.

ii. I manatkikila i Man Bao Corporation, CNMI Corporation. I Direktot i Corporation siha si Cheung, Pingyin yan si Yuan Beihua.

I Presidenti /Tresureru gi Corporation si Cheung, Pingyin yan i Sigundu Presidenti/Sekritåriu si Yuan, Beihua.

iii. I maproponi na atkilon manigosiu gi as Siñot Antonio Rasiang.

iv. I manatkikila debi na u usa o lugåt solamienti para hinangai developing yan managing facility yan pulu aktibidåt bisnis siha tåtkumu our agency, sagan chumotchu, atkilon kareta, shop manareklan tumobit.

I teman i maproponi na kuntråtan atkilon sa' 25 åñus, yan option para u ma'ekstendi i atkilon gi ta'lu 15 åñus.

I maproponi na åpas atkilon gi sakkan gi durântin i tema sigun gi percentage gi appraised fair market value gi propiedåt, ingklusu i prisenti na estroktura.

v. Kopian i manmaproponi na kontråtan atkilon siña machuli' gi ufisinan i Dipattamentun Tånu' Pupbliku siha, gaigi gi sigundu bibienda 2nd floor gi Joeten Dandan Commercial Building giya Dandan, Saipan; gi Songsong Village, Luta; pat i primet 1st bibienda gi Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.

vi. I Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku siha tåya' na ha risibi tinahguin propositu siha para sinuhetun atkilon tanu' pupbliku siha giya Garapan, Saipan.

vii. I Sekritåriun i Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku siha debi na u aksepta i tinigi' i imfotmasion, opiñon yan testamoñun kinentra pat tinahguin propositu siha ginin i manggai interes na pattida siha gi pat åntis di Ineru 26, 2012 gi ufisinan Dipattamentun Tånu' Pupbliku siha ni gaigi Saipan, Luta, pat Tinian.

ARONGORONG REEL POMWOL AKKILONUL FALÚWEER TOULAP

Sángi Tálil ye 106(b) mellól Alléghul Toulap 15-2, Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap, ekke atotoowow ammataf igha ebwe akkilaaló eghús falúw mellól Seipel, Commonwealth Téél Falúwasch Marianas. Schóókka remuschál emwal rebwe isisilong yaar mángemáng , data awewee, me angiingi reel pomwol akkilonul falúweer toulap. Sengi Alléghul Toulap ye 15-2, ebwal ayoora, lamal awewee kka rebwe mweiti ngáli milikka ebwe akkatéélo.

i. Pomwol akkilonul falúweer toulap nge ekke bwáári Lot No. 094 D 03, eyoor tiwabwughúw limeigh me eew laapal(951 square meters) elapeló me ngáre eghús, elo Arabwal, Seipel. Tilighial bwuley yeel nge eyoor mereel Bwulasiyool Falúweer Toulap (Public Lands) ngáre óubwe ghuley fischiy.

ii. Schéschéél schóól akkilón nge Man Bao, eew CNMI Corporation. Schóól assamwoolul Coporation nge Cheung, Pingyin , me Yuan, Beihua.

Samwoolul/Treseróru (President/Treasurer) Coporation nge Cheung, Pingyin me aruschayúl Samwool/Sekkretaria (Vice President/Secretary) nge Yuan, Beihua.

iii. Schóól aweweey akkilon yel nge Mr. Antonio Rasiang.

iv. Schóól akkilon ebwe yááyá falúw yeel rel ebwe ayoora me lemeli eew facilidóód il business rel tour agency, leliyal mwungo(restaurant), car rental, ferúl ghareta (automobile repair shop) me bwal akkaw mwóghutughut.

Tool aighúghúl pomwol akkilon nge reweigh me limoow ráágh (25 years). Emmwel rebwe bwal sóóbwey ngáli seigh me limoow ráágh (15 years).

Pomwol méél akkilon nge ebwe mwiril sángi percentage il yaal appraised fair market value il falúw, me bwal meta kka e akkayu llól bwuley yeel.

v. Tilighial akkilon yeel nge emmwel óubwe bwughi merel bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap, elo aruwowal pwó (2nd floor) me Joeten Dandan Commercial Building llól Tuturam, Seipél; Songsong village, Luuta; me ngáre mmwal pwó (1st floor) mellól Kings Commercial Building, Tchúlúyól.

vi. Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge esáál bweibwogh mwo pomwol akkilon ye elo Arabwal, Seipél.

vii. Samwoolul Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge ebwe bwughi ischil mángemáng, aingiingil merel amweyút mmwal Eneero (January) 26, 2012 mellól Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap iye elo Seipél, Luuta, Tchúlúyól.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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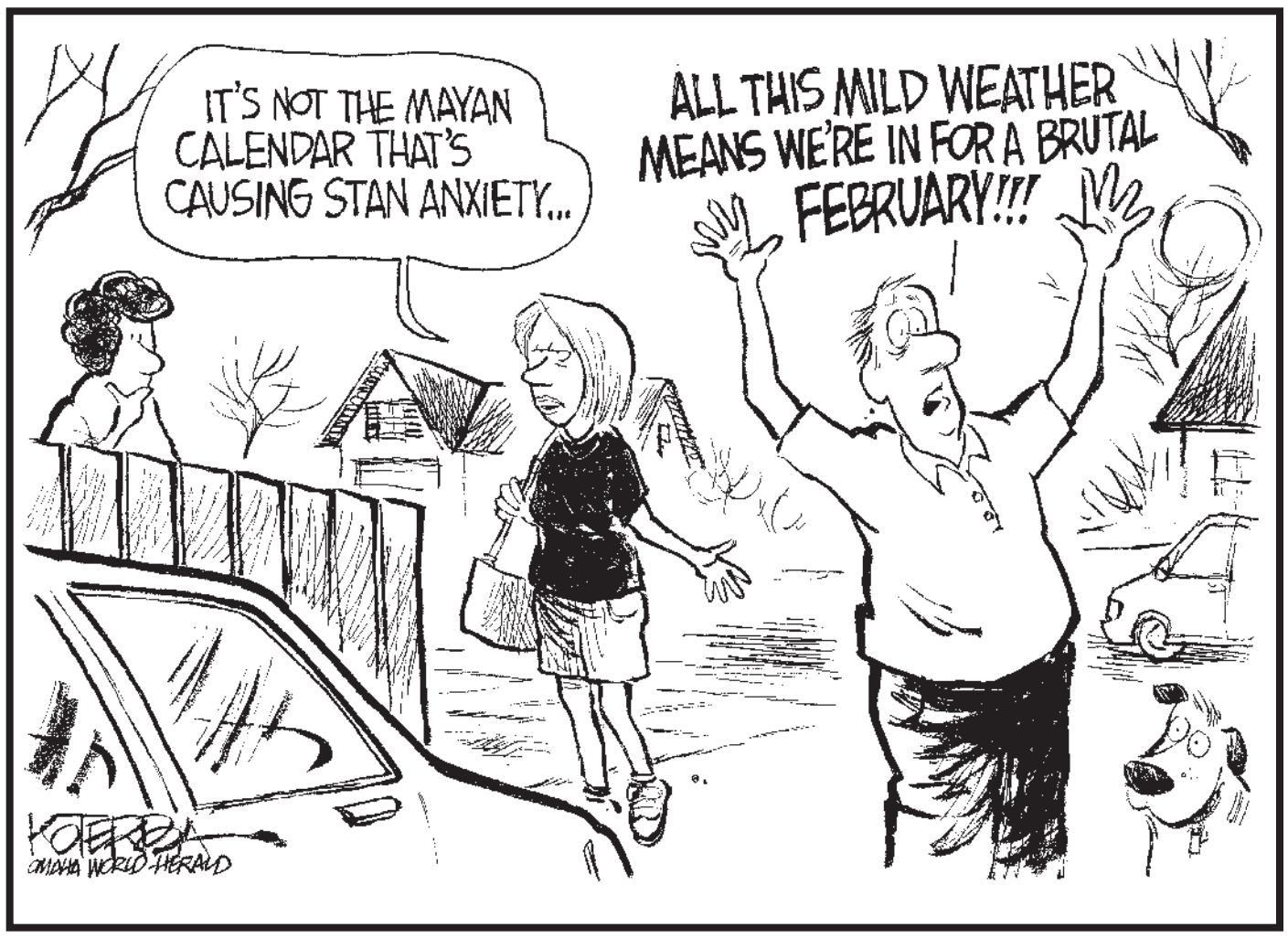

IT'S NOT THE MAYAN CALENDAR THAT'S CAUSING STAN ANXIETY...
ALL THIS MILD WEATHER MEANS WE'RE IN FOR A BRUTAL FEBRUARY!!!
KOTERBA
OMAHA WORLD-HERALD

IMMIGRATION FORUM

By MAYA KARA and BRUCE MAILMAN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Maya Kara is a native of Hungary and comes to the practice of law by way of her interest in Asian history. Bruce Mailman is a native of Bakersfield, California and was a private investigator in California prior to becoming a lawyer. Both have lived and practiced law in the CNMI for over 20 years, Maya in government service and Bruce in private practice. They are married and are partners in the law firm of Mailman & Kara, LLC in Garapan, Saipan.

Adjusting to a new reality

As most of our readers are aware, much of our current law practice involves helping clients with immigration problem and issues. As such, we are on the front line of trends and changes in immigration law and the challenges that face employers and employees alike in navigating the shifting reality of immigration in the CNMI. We consider our columns as reports from the trenches. Now that the panic of November 2011 has subsided, many uncertainties remain. Many of the concerns involve questions about pending status of various sorts. We will try to address the most pressing ones in today's column.

What happens after my parole extension expires on Jan. 31, 2012?

As reported in the *Saipan Tribune* last Friday, USCIS has indicated that persons with pending CW applications who have paroles that were extended to Jan. 31, 2012 will be given an opportunity to further extend their parole. This category includes CW applicants who never had an umbrella permit but had CNMI work authorization that expired after Nov. 28, 2009 and who applied for and received parole. It also includes people with umbrella permits who traveled abroad on an advance parole and re-entered the CNMI, between Nov. 28, 2009 and Nov. 27, 2011. We suspect the Jan. 31, 2012 expiration date was chosen by USCIS as a target date to get all these applications adjudicated; it now appears that more time will be needed, hence the promise of further extensions.

Although USCIS has not yet issued any guidance on how these paroles will be extended, we anticipate that it will happen soon. We also hope that the extension will also be available to people who have employment or investment based applications pending, such as applicants for E-1, E-2, L-1, H-1, F-1, or R-1. These persons are also on a parole basis awaiting adjudication of their petitions. They also need to maintain lawful presence in order to obtain grant of status in the CNMI. If they do not maintain lawful presence in the CNMI, they will have to exit and go through consular processing, which can be a very uncertain process, especially in China.

Please note that persons with pending CW permits, who never left and re-entered the CNMI between Nov. 28, 2009 and Nov. 27, 2012, are not on a parole basis and do not need to extend. This category of people is authorized to remain and work in the CNMI, without taking any further action, until their petitions are either granted or denied.

I have a pending green card application but I urgently need to visit my home country while I am waiting for adjudication—what can I do?

We have had a number of clients who have pending applications for adjustment of status to U.S. permanent resident ("green card") and who either need to go to their home country for medical care or to visit an elderly, sick or dying relative. Our general advice is to try not to travel abroad while your application is pending. But if you must travel, especially for a medical or family emergency, it can be done so long as you are an immediate relative of a U.S. citizen (USC). You need to apply for advance parole. To qualify, you will need to show a Form I-797C receipt proving that you have filed your I-130 (or, for widows, widowers and abused immediate relatives of USCs, your I-360). If the parole is granted, you can return to the CNMI, even though you have no actual status other than a pending application. If USCIS issues you a notice for biometrics or an interview appointment while you are gone, you need to authorize someone to re-set the appointment. USCIS has been very accommodating about re-scheduling both biometrics appointments and interviews, but except for emergency situations, you should make your request as much in advance as possible.

The usual fee for filing Form I-131 to apply for advance parole, is $360 plus, in some cases, an $85 biometrics fee. There is no fee, however, if you file for advance parole at the same time you file your Form I-485 (Application for Adjustment of Status) or, if you have already filed the I-485, if you include your I-797C receipt with the later-filed I-131. (The same is true of the Form I-765 Employment Authorization Document application. For the past year, in most cases, USCIS has been issuing a "combo card" that acts as both EAD and advance parole.)

Unfortunately, it appears that the ability to get advance parole, then leave and return to the CNMI with no other status than a pending green card application, does not apply to green card applicants who are the immediate relatives of lawful permanent residents (LPRs), or to those whose petitioner is a USC but who do not qualify as immediate relatives. Those people must have some other status allowing them to return to the CNMI, once they have left.

I have a nonimmigrant visa but close members of my household do not qualify as my derivative beneficiaries. Is there is anything I can do to keep my family together?

We talk to a lot of people who have—or expect to soon have—nonimmigrant status such as H-1B, E-1, E-2, or L-1 or L-2, and even CW-1. They are, typically, workers who originally came to the CNMI before federalization and have been established here for years, and, frequently, they have household members—most often, elderly parents or "common law" spouses—who may have had some kind of immediate relative status under CNMI law, but who do not qualify for that status under U.S. immigration law.

We always look for some form of status or parole, for example the parole USCIS announced at Thanksgiving for parents of USC children, but frequently we can only say "sorry, nothing we can do." Now it appears that there is something that can be done, although we have to qualify it for now as "yes, maybe, if you successfully jump through enough hoops." Like many new products, this one comes with an implied warning that results may vary and are not guaranteed.

USCIS often announces important changes to its policies, and clarifications of policy, in its policy memoranda, which can be viewed on the USCIS website at http://tinyurl.com/yhrw9z. Last week we found Policy Memorandum PM-602-0045, published last August 17, with a rather dry title that begins, "Changes to B-2 Status and Extensions of B-2 Status for Cohabiting Partners and Other Nonimmigrant Household Members," available at http://tinyurl.com/3v3uss8.

What's that mean? The Policy Memorandum summarizes it succinctly:

In some circumstances, elderly parents, cohabitating nonimmigrant partners, and other household members of principal nonimmigrants may be ineligible for derivative status. For purposes of this memorandum, a "household member" of a principal nonimmigrant is an alien who regularly resides in the same dwelling as the principal nonimmigrant and with whom the principal nonimmigrant maintains the type of relationship and care as one normally would expect between nuclear family members. There are also circumstances when it may be inconvenient or impossible for spouses or children of principal nonimmigrant aliens to apply for the proper derivative status. These aliens may seek B-2 visas, or change their status to B-2, to allow them to reside with the principal nonimmigrant visa holder who is in the United States in another status (H-1B, F-1, etc.).

The Policy Memorandum notes that the Department of State's Foreign Affairs Manual provides for issuance of B-2 visas to these household members, at 9 FAM 41.31 N14.4, available at http://tinyurl.com/7rue3h2, bottom of page 25. Here's the entire Department of State guidance:

9 FAM 41.31 N14.4 Cohabitating Partners, Extended Family Members, and Other Household Members not Eligible for Derivative Status

The B-2 classification is appropriate for aliens who are members of the household of another alien in long-term nonimmigrant status, but who are not eligible for derivative status under that alien's visa classification. This is also an appropriate classification for aliens who are members of the household of a U.S. citizen who normally lives and works overseas, but is returning to the United States for a temporary time period. Such aliens include, but are not limited to the following: cohabitating partners or elderly parents of temporary workers, students, diplomats posted to the United States, accompanying parent(s) of minor F-1 child-student. B-2 classification may also be accorded to a spouse or child who qualifies for derivative status (other than derivative A or G status) but for whom it may be inconvenient or impossible to apply for the proper H-4, L-2, F-2, or other derivative visa. If such individuals plan to stay in the United States for more than six months, they should be advised to ask the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) for a one-year stay at the time they apply for admission. If needed, they may thereafter apply for extensions of stay, in increments of up to six months, for the duration of the principal alien's nonimmigrant status in the United States.

This is a creative use of the B-2 visa, which is usually for tourists and similar visitors to the US. We believe that the use of B-2 status described in the memo will help people who otherwise have no options to hold their households together. It is applicable to a very broad range of family members who do not otherwise qualify for derivative status. The question is, what do you have to do to get this B-2 status?

It is clear that the process will work for an applicant who is outside the CNMI, who applies directly through the Department of State (DOS). But neither the Policy Memorandum nor the DOS guidance clarify whether qualifying household members already in the CNMI can apply through USCIS for an initial grant of status, or whether they must apply through DOS and go through consular processing in their home countries. Many of those we have seen who appear to qualify for this use of the B-2 may not be able to afford the

See ADJUSTING on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Scrutinizing Fund experts

By JOHN DELROSARIO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

DelRosario is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section.*

Since its inception, the Fund was loose in its fiduciary duties to fully guard money being invested for the program. It is too trusting perhaps for the sake of giving the appearance of trust as to ignore vigilance. In the words of President Reagan, "Trust, but verify."

Robert Powell of MarketWatch recently said, "Investment advisers hired by employers to help manage plans in some cases are dishonest and steal money from the plan. He said such stories are more the reason to be "constantly be vigilant about our retirement money..."

The very person who told Congress to be "fiduciary, to be someone who puts the interest of his clients first was the very sucker who screwed an entire retirement plan for a certain company. When members can't get a straight answer on the whereabouts of their $1 million, they asked the U.S. Department of Labor that regulates retirement programs to commence an investigation. It is ongoing today.

Another advisor recommends that we check out the adviser and his firm with Securities and Exchange Commission, the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, and most importantly, references of current clients. Must also verify that the adviser is bonded and for what amount. Are investment advisers and others of the Fund bonded? If so, why then would they shy from the new law protecting the due process rights of retirees to hold them accountable for their actions? Nothing can be further from the truth.

The ensuing though disoriented debate to save the Fund from bankruptcy reminds me of a joke when President Clinton visited the National Arlington Cemetery. A caretaker told him as they shook hands, "Mr. President, your job is like mine."

Clinton politely asked, "How's the similarity, sir?"

"The people who work for you never listen. Just like the folks in this cemetery they too will never listen to me no matter how many seminars I conduct. They're dead, therefore, nobody listens."

Since the inception of the retirement program, politicians curried favors beyond the ability of the fund to stay solvent. Obviously, like the residents of the NAC most are dead and incapable of listening to the pulse and health of the Fund.

■ ■ ■

Fate of imperiled Fund

Efforts to rescue the imperiled Fund now under life support have gone nowhere other than the usual vacuous political posturing from upstairs on both sides of the street. Now, DPL's funds may be diverted as temporary scaffold until some miracle turns up. Is this the ultimate answer shortsighted in all its form?

This needs verification per a recent court decision declaring use of DPL's segregated funds as impermissible for purposes of land compensation and I am sure "other" form of payment as well. A certified question was sought when proposed legislation popped up to earmark certain percent annually for land compensation.

Its use is limited to homestead development, the single most vital DPL policy. To divert any portion of it would paralyze this policy altogether. Why do you think its budget is submitted to the Legislature for informational purposes only? In short, it has never been appropriated by the legislature since its inception. Use of its funds is clearly delineated per pertinent constitutional provision.

Why should public landowners fork out the obligation of the administration to the tune of more than $221 million? DPL only makes $30K plus on major land leases that obviate the issue of time line before it is freed once more to resume homestead development, true?

But it seems we're scared telling the administration to step up to the plate and begin remitting its contribution. Isn't it the major culprit of the current mess? Isn't this a major abrogation of fiduciary duty? Is solid mediocrity and negligence its forte at the expense of retirees? But then, the elected elite prefer swallowing the drug of *mañana* so tranquillized by it as to ignore the urgency of now. Embarrassing!

■ ■ ■

Chase for that elusive dollar

Since the late '50s and early '60s, we pushed for Marianas reintegration with Guam not because we wanted to strengthen cultural ties, but because she pays $1 an hour while ours was more like $.16 per hour. We were shot down and came back home with tails between our skinny legs.

We wanted closer U.S. ties, again, not because we believe in the responsibilities of U.S. Citizenship or the principles upon which was founded the most powerful and prosperous country in the world. But it pays higher minimum wage than Guam. The search for that elusive dollar bounces on. Interesting that the federal minimum wage was excluded from the agreement.

When it was implemented here some two years ago, it annihilated private industries beyond our wildest imaginings. Somehow our belief on that elusive dollar resembled that of the cargo cult mentality. Remember the story when that generous airdrops stopped coming to a certain island? The locals built their bamboo reed airplane to replicate it. It never got off the ground!

Then came retirement and wages into full view. Government paid its employees much higher than private sector salaries by as much as $3. It also came up with the retirement program that had private sector employees salivating 24/7. No wonder we built such confidence in "everything is government."

Salaries should have been kept basically at par with a single retirement program for employees in both sectors. It would instill calm and focus on skills acquisition over unearned loot usually taken for granted.

Try running a business to get first hand experience how you must make more mula to pay for your employees' salaries that increases annually and hopefully still break even. Furthermore, it simply paralyzes new business startups. Wow! It's paralysis in every corner! It's our historical though delusional journey chasing after that elusive dollar.

Obama's Ohana is MLK's Aloha

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergarajr2031@aol.com) is a former PSS teacher and is currently writing from the campus of Shenyang Aerospace University in China.

M. L. King, Jr. in his now famous I had a dream '63 speech dreamt "that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character."

The charismatic and iconic leader joins the rank of Gandhi and Nelson Mandela among the revered exemplars of the non-violent protest movement, and on the days preceding OCCUPY spring, as the northern hemisphere thaws out of its dead winter into the inviting dawn of warmer public parks, proponents of social justice stir afresh from their momentary coldness to strategize on effective methods to forward their humanizing aims.

The U.S. has forgotten our "manifest destiny" to be a "beacon on a hill." Instead, we have become the self-appointed guardians, administrators, and controllers of the world's oil resource. Our industrial path goes through the thick sludge of crude oil and we have gotten addicted to the comforts and profits the liquid carbon brings.

Obama is grudgingly admired for sending grunts to terminate Osama, but his promise to close down Guantanamo's controversial detention center, and the questionable use of drones to eliminate adversaries in a manner that is proving sticky on constitutional grounds, are getting mixed reviews.

It has not helped the country that some of our grants behaved inhumanly over some dead adversaries, with the latest viral video of our gents in uniform peeing on dead "enemies." We always thought that was something that the enemy would do to us. Our folks of the clipped cadence now seem to do it with impunity!

Heretofore, the only method we seem to employ is the Spartan defensiveness that our Pentagon, in consort with a global network of corporations, has zealously appropriated, protecting gains from the past so as not to lose it, only to lose whatever gain we've attained by failing to consider that the freedom and justice universally sought after has benefited only a few.

In many free and democratic societies, some folks are definitely "more equal" than others. In the distribution of personal wealth, the deep cleavage in the United States between the 99 percent of those that-have-some to barely-have-none, stands in clear contrast with the 1 percent that would not mind, if they have their way with the politicians they bought, to have it all. This may sound like a broadcast byte of demagoguery, but the image has become more than just metaphorical.

The world is convulsing because the financial house of cards we carefully cultivated through the years and imposed on the globe is coming down. A new system more participatory and broader in coverage is coming online.

Honolulu's MLK "We Are the Many" and "the Many One—e pluribus unum" Day paraded its diversity in its rainbow coalition, both straight and LGBT. Obama's Ohana appears to be MLK's "the-way-life-is" Aloha.

That diversity is being tested on a concrete issue of the rapid transit system. The voters agreed to to construct a Metro rail between UH Manoa on the south to the second city of Kapolei north to decongest the three interstate highways that crosses the island of Oahu and slows down traffic at snails' pace, at least, two times a day.

The universally perceived "need" has run aground against the tsunami of local politics. No less than former guv Ben Cayetano of Philippine descent has declared his candidacy for the Honolulu Mayor's office in the next election on only one issue: stopping the Metro Rail project that is already in the process of being built. Originally estimated to cost $5 billion, a conservatively 40 percent increase of cost anticipated in a declining revenue situation in the current economy, it is inviting a serious rethinking of the project. That the island wants the rail is not in question. Whether it can afford it is what is in contention.

This leads back to the question of whether Hawaii can live off its Ohana orientation in the Aloha spirit. In one sense, the same question may be asked of the nation by Obama and his crusading spirit on the stagnant U.S. economy, and the bloated and overextended reach of its military. In this election year, there are many forces intent in not allowing Obama to raise that question and would rather that things remain as they are, keep the illusory story that government is the deadweight, and the corporations that now rule the world be allowed to right a vessel a-kilter on its own devices. That, or find a whipping boy on which to blame the nation's woes!

That same "big government" is what keeps the CNMI afloat in the absence of any realistic economic base that is not founded on a legal loophole. Since the CNMI is without a sense of Ohana re its residents, nor the spirit of Aloha among its members (Chamorro-Carolinian relations alone is problematic; throw in Filipinos, Chinese, Korean, Japanese, FSMs, Pacific islanders, South and Southeast Asians, and one has a ready made can of worms) as long as Obama continues to fund the CNMI's essential services to keep it in being as a welfare state with a U.S. zip code, the predominantly privileged Chamolinian government employees will survive.

Honolulu's rail is a different issue but if its Ohana stays actively diverse without losing its Aloha, then Obama's home ground might just make MLK's dream of social justice in a rainbow configuration come true.

ADJUSTING

From Page 10

travel expenses, or may be too anxious about taking their chances with the consulates. Given recent experiences of various clients in Manila, Chengdu, and Seoul, and anecdotes we are hearing from other CNMI attorneys, we cannot say that the anxiety is not justified. Current consular officer education about the CNMI seems spotty, at best. (One particular exception is the consulate at the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo, where our clients have had very positive experiences.)

We have for some time been able to apply to USCIS for initial grants of status for employment-based nonimmigrants. If successful, the grant of status allows the beneficiary to remain in the CNMI and work, although upon first exit from the CNMI the beneficiary must apply to the appropriate consulate for the actual visa, in order to return. That is, essentially, what the CW status applications accomplish: a grant of CW status, with a visa required to return from any foreign travel. We sent a query to USCIS, asking whether alien residents of the CNMI, who have only prior CNMI status but are admissible, can qualify for initial grants of status through USCIS rather than applying through DOS.

The answer, at least for now, is "no"—USCIS will not make an original B-2 grant of status. The Policy Memorandum only applies to extensions of the B-2 status for these extended family members who already have B-2 visas and are in the U.S… They will have to apply for B-2 status through the appropriate consulate, with all the attendant expense of travel and uncertainty of result. Still, if you are out of other options, this one is definitely worth exploring.

The information contained in this column is intended as general information only, and not as individual legal advice. Readers should obtain professional legal advice before taking action with respect to their individual situations. Readers may submit questions regarding federalization or immigration issues to the authors by email to lexmarianas@pticom.com. Readers may also e-mail written questions through the *Saipan Tribune* at editor@saipantribune.com.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲85° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲85° ▼76°	▲85° ▼76°

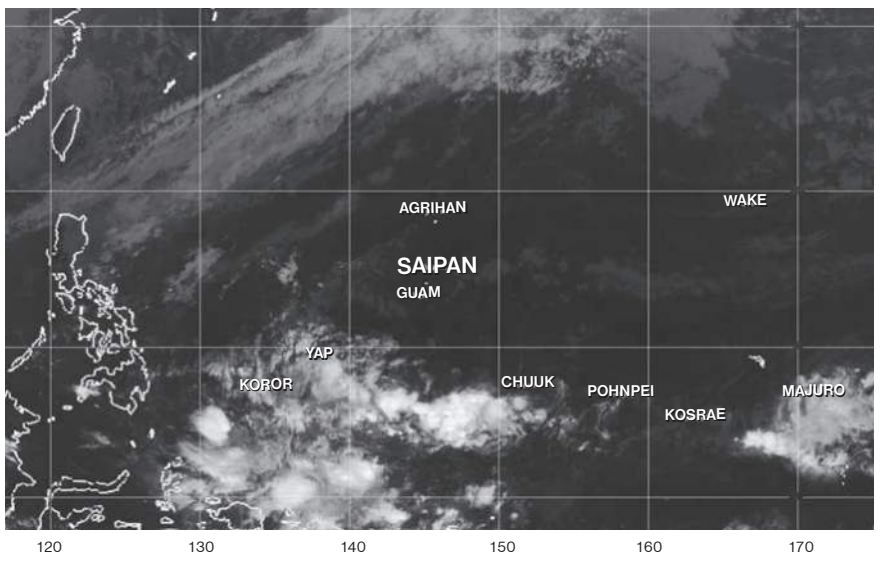
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Mostly Sunny	▲84	▼76
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼77
Yap	Showers	▲86	▼78
Chuuk	Showers	▲86	▼79
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼80
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼80
Majuro	Showers	▲85	▼78

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲73	▼62
Beijing	Snow	▲37	▼22
Hong Kong	Showers	▲68	▼64
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲81	▼69
London	Showers	▲49	▼42
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲64	▼43
Manila	Thundershowers	▲86	▼74
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲76	▼58
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲81	▼59
New York	Sunny	▲38	▼23
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲54	▼41
Paris	Showers	▲52	▼41
Pusan	Cloudy	▲52	▼42
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲58	▼37
Salem	Rain	▲48	▼45
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲56	▼48
Seoul	Mostly Cloudy	▲43	▼27
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲52	▼36
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲40	▼29

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2012
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front is located well to the northwest of the Marianas. The front extends southwestward from near Iwo To island at 25N141E to beyond 130E at 19N. Extensive cloudiness and patchy rain are found along this boundary and northward to beyond 25N. An old shear line undulates westward from 15N180 to 15N151E to south of Guam at 12N144E to end near 13N139E. Cloudiness and scattered showers are present along and up to 120 miles north of this boundary. A near-equatorial trough extends southeastward from 5N130E to end at EQ141E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring south of Koror and Yap or south of a line from 6N130E to 2N144E. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms from just south of Yap to just south of Chuuk within 130 miles of a line from 8N137E to 5N146E to 6N152E. A trade-wind trough extends northeastward over the Marshall Islands from 3N169E to 9N174E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are taking place southeast of Kosrae within 60 miles of a line from 4N174E to 4N168E. Similar weather is present near Majuro or between 3N and 10N from 168E to 176E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

3:50 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.5 Feet
8:24 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet
2:16 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
10:02 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:47 AM	6:07 PM
Thursday	6:47 AM	6:08 PM
Friday	6:47 AM	6:09 PM
Saturday	6:47 AM	6:09 PM
Sunday	6:47 AM	6:10 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	1:34 AM	1:16 PM
Thursday	2:35 AM	2:11 PM
Friday	3:36 AM	3:10 PM
Saturday	4:35 AM	4:10 PM
Sunday	5:30 AM	5:10 PM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 11, 2012

DEPARTURES

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
C05062	2:10am	2:40am	1, 5
SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP)			
C05064	4:15am	4:50am	1, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
C05064	4:15am	5:45am	1, 5 via ROP
C05070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
C05068	8:25am	9:15am	Daily
C05074	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C05076	3:10pm	4:00pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05078	6:50pm	7:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05078	7:00pm	7:50pm	3, 6
C05072	9:55pm	10:45pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05072	10:05pm	10:55pm	3, 6
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			
DL287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
DL285	6:35am	9:15am	1, 3, 5, 7
DL297	4:25pm	7:15pm	Daily
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)			
OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	Daily via KIX
OZ604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)			
OZ608	3:35am	7:05am	4, 7
DL581	4:10am	7:30am	1, 5
SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
OZ606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C05070/191	4:35am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:00am	10:25pm	Daily via NRT
C05068/183	8:25am	9:25pm	2, 5 via GUM
C05068/183	8:25am	9:40pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
C05076/183	3:10pm	9:25pm	2, 5 via GUM
C05076/183	3:10pm	9:40pm	1, 4, 7 via GUM
C05076/193	3:10pm	11:00pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN
C05072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 5, 7 via GUM
C05072/PR111	10:05pm	7:50am+1	3, 6 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)			
OZ606/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C05076/147	3:10pm	10:25pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/723	3:20pm	10:30pm	Daily via ICN
OZ604/749	3:20pm	10:50pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)			
C05064	5:15am	5:45am	1, 5
ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)			
C05062	3:10am	3:45am	1, 5
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
C05062	2:10am	3:45am	1, 5 via ROP
C05069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
C05071	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C05073	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05075	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C05077	5:30pm	6:20pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05077	5:40pm	6:30pm	3, 6
C05079	8:35pm	9:25pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05079	8:45pm	9:35pm	3, 6
NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:40pm	1:15am+1	Daily
DL286	7:40pm	12:20am+1	2, 4, 6, 7
OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN			
OZ120	9:50pm	2:20am+1	Daily
SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	3, 6
DL580	10:10pm	2:55am+1	4, 7
GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
DL172/288	8:00am	1:15am+1	Daily via NRT
C0190/5077	10:55am	6:30pm	3, 6 via GUM
C0190/5079	10:55am	9:35pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C05071	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0192/5071	10:25pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
C0184/5071	11:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ704/603	11:40pm	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
C0184/5071	11:59pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM
HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0180/5071	11:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

Business

China's growth ebbs in final quarter of 2011

BEIJING (AP)—China's economic growth slowed in the final quarter of 2011 to its lowest rate in 2 1/2 years as U.S. and European demand plunged and Beijing fought inflation.

The world's second-largest economy grew by 8.9 percent in the three months ending in December, data showed Tuesday. It was the slowest expansion since the second quarter of 2009, when the economy grew 7.9 percent.

China appears on track to avoid the "hard landing" of an abrupt slowdown but needs to do more to reduce reliance on exports and investment-driven growth by boosting consumer spending, analysts said.

"Today's outcome seems to confirm a `soft landing' scenario," said Frances Cheung of Credit Agricole CIB in Hong Kong.

AP

Chinese workers load packages with Chinese words reading, "All the Best," for sale for the coming Lunar New Year outside a shop in Beijing, China, Tuesday, Jan. 17, 2012.

Slower Chinese growth could have global repercussions if its cuts demand for oil, iron ore, industrial components and other imports and hurts suppliers such as Australia, Brazil and Southeast Asia.

In 2012, China faces "complexity and challenges" due to global malaise and domestic pressure for prices to rise, said Ma Jiantang, commissioner of the National Statistics Bureau.

"We will face a number of risks that affect the steady growth of the Chinese economy," Ma said at a news conference.

For the full year, the economy grew 9.2 percent, down from 2010's blistering 10.3 percent after communist leaders repeatedly hiked interest rates and tightened investment curbs to prevent overheating and inflation.

Hit by an abrupt plunge in Western consumer demand, regulators reversed course in late 2011 and tried to prop up growth by promising more bank lending to help struggling exporters and avert job losses and the threat of unrest.

The plunge in global demand, coupled with lending curbs, drove thousands of small Chinese exporters out of business and forced others to cut jobs, raising the threat of unrest.

Analysts expect Beijing to try to stimulate growth this year with an interest rate cut or other measures to free up money for lending.

Consumer inflation edged down in December to 4.1 percent, below July's 37-month high of 6.5 percent. That could give the government more leeway to stimulate the economy but it still was above the official 4 percent target for the year.

The central bank last week promised pro-growth efforts to support Chinese entrepreneurs and small companies, though its governor warned conditions were uncertain.

Also in 2011, China's urban population exceeded the number of rural dwellers for the first time, rising to 51.3 percent of the nation's 1.3 billion people, the National Bureau of Statistics announced.

LL Bean celebrates 100th with a boot on wheels

FREEPORT, Maine (AP)—Back in the days before retailers like Gap, J. Crew or American Eagle Outfitters, there were guys like L.L. Bean, Eddie Bauer, David Abercrombie and Ezra Fitch.

In Maine, L.L. Bean found success without consumer research, focus groups or fashionistas to tell him what to sell. He sold only products that he personally used and tested. He backed them with a money-back satisfaction guarantee. And his larger-than-life personality was projected in his catalogs, where he came across as someone customers could trust.

"The important part of L.L. was his personality. He was a hardy, enthusiastic, outgoing guy. He shouted most of his conversations because he was hard of hearing and assumed everyone else was, too. He was a genuine presence," said his grandson, Leon Gorman, chairman of the board.

The retailer that celebrates the outdoors with Leon Leonwood Bean's Yankee sense of value is kicking off its 100th birthday celebration this week with the unveiling of a giant version of its iconic hunting boot set on four wheels. It'll be rolling into New York City on Wednesday.

A century later, the family-owned retailer that started with Bean's hunting shoe in 1912 has grown into a business with $1.5 billion in projected sales in its 2011 fiscal year.

Along the way, the company has successfully expanded from a catalog retailer to an online retailer and a bricks-and-mortar retailer, and has managed to create a customer loyalty that's envied by others, said Kevin Lane Keller, a branding expert at the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth University.

"They had an iconic catalog that they had figured out. Now they're having to look at other ways to sell. That's part of modern retailing: You have multiple channels," he said.

The company has recovered lost ground during the recession, but consumer confidence remains a concern as retailers continue to discount merchandise to entice consumers.

Long term, the nation's sedentary lifestyle is as big a concern as competitors ranging from outdoors retailers like Cabela's to catalog merchandisers like Lands' End. "For us the challenge is people spending less time outside and engaged in traditional activities," said company spokeswoman Carolyn Beem.

While economic growth is slow, consumer behavior is changing rapidly, and it's a challenge to stay ahead.

"With the Internet maturing as a media channel, it has increased the pace of everything," said Geoff Wolf, executive vice president at J. Schmid & Associates, a Kansas-based catalog marketing specialist.

Chevron: Rig catches fire off Nigeria's delta

LAGOS, Nigeria (AP)—An offshore rig exploring possible oil and gas fields off Nigeria's coast for Chevron Corp. caught fire Monday, and the oil company said officials were still trying to account for all those working there.

Chevron said two workers were missing and 152 others found, but gave no further detail on the missing persons.

The company said it was still investigating the fire, which occurred near its North Apoi oil platform, and which forced it to shut down.

"We immediately flew out people to the nearby North Apoi platform, and have been helping those needing any medical assistance," Chevron spokesman Scott Walker said in a statement.

Chevron did not immediately say what caused the fire. However, Nigeria's government believes a "gas kick"—a major build up of gas pressure from drilling—was responsible, said Levi Ajuonoma, a spokesman for the state-run Nigerian National Petroleum Corp.

Chevron and other foreign oil companies in Nigeria pump crude oil in partnership with the state-run company.

Nnimmo Bassey, who runs an environmental watchdog group in Nigeria, said he had received reports from locals nearby that the fire was an industrial incident.

"Workers were trying to contain the gas pressure and they didn't succeed," Bassey said.

The rig is run on Chevron's behalf by contractor FODE Drilling Co., Walker said. Officials with FODE, which has offices in London and Jenkintown, Pennsylvania, could not be immediately reached for comment Monday.

Nigeria is the fifth-largest crude oil exporter to the U.S. It produces about 2.4 million barrels of crude oil a day. However, more than 50 years of oil production has seen environmental damage through delta's maze of muddy creeks and mangroves.

Chevron, based in San Ramon, California, produced an average of 524,000 barrels of crude oil a day from Nigeria in 2010. The company has exploration rights to about 2.2 million acres across Nigeria's delta and offshore.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Wal-Mart taps CBS Web exec to lead e-commerce

BENTONVILLE, Ark. (AP)—Wal-Mart has named an executive from CBS Interactive as its new head of online operations. Neil Ashe, 44, will take the job as president and CEO of global e-commerce for Wal-Mart Stores Inc. He replaces Eduardo Castro-Wright, who announced in September that he plans to retire. Ashe was previously president of CBS Interactive, based in San Francisco. Its sites include CNet and CBS.com. Wal-Mart has made the expansion of online sales a priority. It has recently started to turn around stagnating sales at its stores.

Oil climbs in Asia on Saudi's support at $100

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Oil climbed above $100 a barrel Tuesday in Asia after Saudi Arabia, the world's largest exporter of the commodity, indicated support for crude at that level. Benchmark crude for February delivery was up $1.56 at $100.26 a barrel at midday Kuala Lumpur time in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The oil market in the U.S. was closed on Monday for a holiday. Oil prices rose after Saudi Oil Minister Ali al-Naimi told CNN that Saudi Arabia wanted to stabilize prices at $100 a barrel this year and was ready to pump more oil if needed, said Victor Shum, an energy analyst with Purvin & Gertz in Singapore.

Nortel fraud trial begins

TORONTO (AP)—A fraud case against three former Nortel Networks executives who are accused of falsifying financial reports began Monday, eight years after they were fired. Former chief executive Frank Dunn, chief financial officer Douglas Beatty and corporate controller Michael Gollogly were dismissed from the company in 2004. Nortel has been winding down as a company since seeking bankruptcy protection in 2009 after a 127-year history in Canada.

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
12,422.10	1,289.09	2,710.67
-48.96	-6.41	-14.03
-0.39%	-0.49%	-0.51%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	0.9633	Hong Kong Dollar	7.7674	Philippine Peso	43.8300
British Pound	0.6507	Indian Rupee	51.0500	Singapore Dollar	1.2860
Canadian Dollar	1.0145	Indonesian Rupiah	9,167.00	South Korean Won	1,146.55
Chinese Yuan	6.3190	Japanese Yen	76.6845	Swiss Franc	0.9508
Euro	0.7857	Malaysian Ringgit	3.1320	Taiwan Dollar	30.0050
		New Zealand Dollar	1.2529	Thailand Baht	31.9100

Nation

Minn. couple missing after Italian ship capsized

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—A Minnesota couple missing after a cruise ship capsized off the west coast of Italy are devout Catholics who spend part of almost every day at church, where he teaches religious classes and she hands out baked goods and other sweet treats to parishioners.

Church members described the kindness and good deeds of Jerry and Barbara Heil on Monday as a search continued along the Italian coast. The Heils are among more than two dozen people still missing after the Costa Concordia hit a reef and ran aground near Tuscany on Friday night.

Six people have been confirmed dead, and prosecutors are investigating the ship's captain for manslaughter, abandoning ship and causing a shipwreck. The ship's owner said the captain, Francesco Schettino, caused the crash by deviating from the authorized course.

Diane Vorland, who is confined to a wheelchair, told The Associated Press that Jerry Heil, 69, came to her house every Thursday for the past three years to administer her communion and recite the rosary. The trip, she said, "was a big deal for them."

"On the Thursday before he left, he said, 'The next time you see me I'll have been to Rome,'" Vorland said.

Other members of Church of St. Pius X in White Bear Lake described the Heils as quiet, kind people deeply involved in the congregation. They joined the church in 1973, and their four children attended its elementary and middle school, said Larry Erickson, the parish administrator.

AP

This undated photo provided Monday, Jan. 16, 2012 by the St. Piux X Catholic Church directory in White Bear Lake, Minn. shows Jerry and Barbara Heil.

Jerry Heil taught religious education classes for everyone from children to senior citizens. Dennis Hardy, who attended one of his classes, said Barbara Heil, 70, often accompanied her husband, bringing baked goods she gave to class members.

"Both of them are at the church, I'd say, pretty much every day," Erickson said.

The Heils live in White Bear Lake, a suburb of about 25,000 people 15 miles outside St. Paul. The community sits between two large lakes, White Bear and Bald Eagle, which are encircled by opulent homes and historic cottages dating to the early 1900s when the area was a weekend destination for wealthy St. Paul residents. Today, the city retains vestiges of a resort aura but also is home to middle-and working-class neighborhoods.

Jerry Heil retired from a job at the Minnesota Department of Agriculture. While reserved, he possesses a dry sense of humor, Vorland said. After communion and prayers, she said, he would engage her in deep and thoughtful conversations about history or church teachings.

"Every Christmas he and his wife would come and give me some fudge," she said. "They're just solid people."

Jerry Heil also is a longtime member of the congregation's Knights of Columbus chapter. Duane Jabas, a former grand knight, called him a jack-of-all-trades who helped plan and run nearly every chapter function for years. "You always knew every detail would be covered if Jerry was involved," Jabas said.

Shawn Gutoski, who works at St. Pius X, said the Heils were the type of people every church needs to function. "They're not people that want to draw attention to themselves, but you knew if they were involved that it would get done," Gutowski said.

The church's music director announced before Sunday Mass that the Heils were missing after the shipwreck.

"A lot of people gasped," said Hardy, who was in attendance. "I know there are a lot of prayers going over to Italy right now."

Hardy, who recently lost his driver's license, said Jerry Heil offered to drive him around on errands.

Several family members did not respond to phone calls from the AP on Sunday and Monday. A family friend outside the home of the couple's son, Aaron Heil, gave the AP a statement from the family.

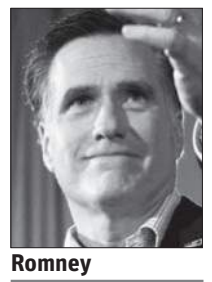
"We are waiting patiently for the rescuers to safely try to find our parents," it said. "Our prayers and thoughts are with our parents; those others that are still missing and their families; and the brave rescuers. We are working closely with the U.S. Embassy in Italy and are confident that everything is being done to find our parents."

Sarah Heil, their daughter, told WBBM radio in Chicago that her parents had been looking forward to their 16-day vacation.

"They raised four kids and sent them all to private school, elementary to college, so they never had any money," Sarah Heil said. "So when they retired, they went traveling. And this was to be a big deal—a 16-day trip. They were really excited about it."

Front-runner Mitt Romney fends off SC debate attacks

MYRTLE BEACH, S.C. (AP)—Under heavy debate pressure from his rivals, Republican presidential front-runner Mitt Romney defended his record as a venture capitalist, insisted he bears no responsibility for attack ads aired by his allies and grudgingly said in campaign debate Monday night he might release his income tax returns this spring.



Romney

"I have nothing in them that suggests there's any problem and I'm happy to do so," he said. "I sort of feel like we're showing a lot of exposure at this point," he added.

Romney came under criticism from Newt Gingrich, Rick Perry and Rick Santorum across two hours in the first of a pair of debates in the run-up to this weekend's first-in-the-South primary in South Carolina. The former Massachusetts governor won the first two events of the campaign, the Iowa caucuses and last week's New Hampshire primary, leads in the pre-primary polls in South Carolina and won an endorsement from campaign dropout Jon Huntsman earlier in the day.

Gingrich has virtually conceded that a victory for Romney in South Carolina would assure his nomination as Democratic President Barack Obama's Republican rival in the fall, and none of the other remaining contenders has challenged that conclusion.

That only elevated the stakes for Monday night's debate, feisty from the outset as former House Speaker Gingrich, Texas Gov. Perry and former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum sought to knock Romney off stride while generally being careful to wrap their criticism in anti-Obama rhetoric.

"We need to satisfy the country that whoever we nominate has a record that can stand up to Barack Obama in a very effective way," said Gingrich.

The five men on stage also sought to outdo one another in calling for lower taxes.

Texas Rep. Ron Paul won that competition handily, saying he thought the top personal tax rate should be zero.

SC rally marks MLK day with voting rights message

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP)—Thousands commemorating the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday Monday outside South Carolina's capitol heard a message that wouldn't have been out of place during the halcyon days of the civil rights movement a half-century ago: the need to protect all citizens' right to vote.

A similar tone was struck at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, where King preached from 1960 until his death. There and in South Carolina, speakers condemned the voter identification laws they said are meant to suppress black voter turnout.

For most of 13 years in South Carolina, the attention at the NAACP's annual rally has been on the Confederate flag that still waves outside the Statehouse. But on Monday, the civil rights group shifted the focus to laws requiring voters to show photo identification before they can cast ballots, which the group and many other critics say is especially discriminatory toward African-Americans and the poor.

South Carolina's new law was rejected last month by the U.S. Justice Department, but Gov. Nikki Haley vowed to fight the federal government in court. At least a half-dozen other states passed similar voter ID laws in 2011.

"This has been quite a faith-testing year. We have seen the greatest attack on voting rights since segregation," said Benjamin Todd Jealous, president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

The shift in tactics was also noted by the keynote speaker, U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder. Last month, Holder said the Justice Department was committed to fighting any laws that keep people from the ballot box. He told the crowd he was keenly aware he couldn't have become the nation's first African-American attorney general without the blood shed by King and other civil rights pioneers.

"The right to vote is not only the cornerstone of our governance, it is the lifeblood of our democracy. And no force has proved more powerful, or more integral to the success of the great American experiment, than efforts to expand the franchise," Holder said. "Let me be very, very clear—the arc of American history has bent toward the inclusion, not the exclusion, of more of our fellow citizens in the electoral process. We must ensure that this continues."

Texas' new voter ID law is currently before the Justice Department, which reviews changes in voting laws in nine mostly Southern states because of their history of discriminatory voting practices. Other states that passed such laws in 2011 included Alabama, Kansas, Mississippi, Rhode Island, Tennessee and Wisconsin.

Similar laws already were on the books in Georgia and Indiana, and they were approved by President George W. Bush's Justice Department. Indiana's law, passed in 2005, was upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court in 2008.

Critics have likened the laws to the poll taxes and tests used to prevent blacks from voting during the civil rights era. Supporters, many of whom are Republicans, say such laws are needed to prevent fraud.

"I signed a bill that would protect the integrity of our voting," Haley said in a statement welcoming Holder to South Carolina.

At the Atlanta church where King once preached, the Rev. Raphael G. Warnock said some in America disrespect King's legacy by "cutting off those for whom he died and the principles for which he fought."

He called voter ID laws an affront to the memory of the civil rights leader.

"You cannot celebrate Dr. King on Monday, and undermine people's ability to vote on Super Tuesday," Warnock said.

ACROSS THE NATION

Fuel transfer begins at iced-in Alaska town

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)—Crews began transferring 1.3 million gallons of fuel Monday from a Russian fuel tanker to the iced-in western Alaska city of Nome. The offloading began near sundown, said Stacey Smith of Vitus Marine, the fuel supplier that arranged to have the Russian tanker Renda and its crew deliver the gasoline and diesel fuel. The process began after crews safety-tested two transfer hoses with pressurized air. Earlier, crews laid the hoses along a stretch of Bering Sea ice. On Monday, they hooked the hoses to a pipeline that begins on a rock causeway 550 yards from the tanker, which is moored about half a mile offshore, said Jason Evans, board chairman of the Sitnasuak Native Corp.

Murder-suicide suspect videotaped self taking meth

FRESNO, Calif. (AP)—A woman who shot her two young children, their father and a cousin in California's Central Valley before committing suicide took video of herself on her iPad as she smoked methamphetamine prior to the killings, police said Monday. The apparent murder-suicide by 23-year-old Aide Mendez began Sunday morning when she argued with the father of her two children, 33-year-old Eduardo Lopez. After neighbors called police to report trouble, officers arrived to find Lopez outside the Silver Lakes Apartment with knife and gunshot wounds, said Lt. Mark Salazar, homicide commander for the Fresno Police Department.

Mount Rainier park official: Snows hoer found alive

SEATTLE (AP)—A 66-year-old snowshoer who had been missing on Mount Rainier since Saturday was found alive Monday by a team of three rescuers, a national park spokeswoman said. Yong Chun Kim, of Tacoma, Wash., was alert, conscious and cold but otherwise stable when the team reached him at about 1:40 p.m., park spokeswoman Lee Taylor said. Weather conditions prevented a helicopter from landing in the area, and rescuers were bringing in a Sno-Cat snow vehicle to help carry him out to a paved road - hopefully by about 10 p.m., she said. Kim, who has been snowshoeing for a decade, was well equipped for a day of snowshoeing but didn't have overnight gear.

Asia

PH chief justice impeachment trial starts

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippines' first impeachment trial of a Supreme Court justice opened Monday, in a major battle of President Benigno Aquino III's anti-corruption campaign targeting his detained predecessor and her allies.

Chief Justice Renato Corona was impeached by the House of Representatives last month on corruption allegations as well as accusations that he tried to block prosecution of former President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, who has been detained on vote-rigging charges.

Corona's trial before the Senate has sparked fears of a constitutional crisis pitting Aquino against the 15-member court, where 12 of the justices were appointed by his rival and predecessor, Arroyo.

Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile promised his chamber would hold an impartial trial as the nationally televised proceedings got under way Monday, attended by Corona, his wife and a dozen defense lawyers. In his first ruling, Enrile dismissed a Corona petition that may have halted the trial on grounds the charges against him were defective.

AP

Beleaguered Philippine Supreme Court Chief Justice Renato Corona acknowledges the crowd of mostly lawyers shortly after addressing supporters at the flag-raising ceremony Monday Jan.16, 2012 at the Supreme Court in Manila.

More than 300 left-wing activists demanding Corona's conviction rallied outside the Senate, a block away from dozens of Corona followers. Police anti-riot squads stood by to prevent any clashes.

Rep. Niel Tupas Jr., who leads a congressional team of prosecutors against Corona, said the chief justice was impeached due to eight acts of alleged corruption and improperly issuing decisions that favored Arroyo.

"We are not here to indict the Supreme Court as an institution," Tupas told the senators. "We are here because one man—Chief Justice Renato Corona—has bartered away for the pot of porridge the effectiveness, independence and honor of the Supreme Court."

A defiant Corona led a rally by hundreds of employees and judges at the Supreme Court before the trial, denying any wrongdoing and vowing to defend the high tribunal's independence.

"I have not sinned against the president. I have not sinned against the people. I have not stolen from anyone," Corona told his cheering followers. He expressed confidence he would be acquitted.

Aquino, son of revered pro-democracy icons, has accused Corona of trying to derail Arroyo's prosecution and his reforms, which are aimed at battling pervasive corruption and poverty.

Aquino said he expected Corona to be convicted due to the strength of the evidence against him.

The trial is the latest struggle in a political drama pitting Aquino against Arroyo, whom he blames for a decade of corruption scandals that eroded public trust in government and held back foreign investors.

Corona was Arroyo's chief of staff before she appointed him chief justice shortly before her stormy, nine-year rule ended in 2010. Corona has accused Aquino of acting like a dictator by maneuvering to oust him to gain a rubber-stamp Supreme Court.

A Philippine regional trial court ordered the 64-year-old Arroyo arrested on Nov. 18 after she was charged with ordering the rigging of 2007 senatorial elections to favor her candidates. She has denied any wrongdoing and is detained in a government hospital while awaiting trial.

The country's largest group of lawyers has backed Corona, accusing Aquino's allies of improperly rushing his impeachment. Aquino's administration was endangering democracy by undermining the independence of the judiciary, the Integrated Bar of the Philippines said.

Pakistani court clashes with weakened government

ISLAMABAD (AP)—The political crisis engulfing Pakistan deepened Monday when the nation's top court clashed with a beleaguered government already under attack from the powerful army—a combined assault that could bring down the U.S.-backed administration.

The Supreme Court launched contempt proceedings against Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani for failing to carry out its order to reopen a corruption case against President Asif Ali Zardari and demanded Gilani make a rare appearance before the judges Thursday. If the court convicts Gilani of contempt, he could serve up to six months in prison and be disqualified from holding office.

The nuclear-armed country is already grappling with an ailing economy and a violent Islamist insurgency. The latest clash could also complicate U.S. efforts to get Pakistan to cooperate on the war in neighboring Afghanistan, especially peace talks with the Taliban—although Washington had made little headway on that even before this crisis.

"The Supreme Court and the government are in an open clash now, and it seems fairly obvious the court is unwilling to back off," said Cyril Almeida, a lawyer and columnist for Pakistan's Dawn newspaper.

Even before the latest clash with the court, the government was locked in a bitter conflict with the army over a secret memo sent to Washington last year aimed at stopping a supposed military coup.

The Supreme Court ruling boosted the sense that the administration could fall, squeezed between the court and Pakistan's powerful generals. Some observers have speculated the army is working behind the scenes with the court to oust the government by constitutional means.

"Once the Supreme Court, the army and the political opposition agree the government needs to go sooner rather than later, it seems very difficult for the government to stay on," Almeida said.

Still the court could have its own reasons for stepping up pressure on the government. Supreme Court Justice Mohammad Iftikhar Chaudhry has clashed with Zardari in the past, and the judges could be fed up with the government defying its order to reopen the corruption case against the president.

Gilani promised to appear before the Supreme Court on Thursday but warned both the judges and the army that they must protect democracy.

"It cannot happen that they derail system," said Gilani after a majority in parliament—mostly the ruling party and its allies—passed a resolution supporting the government.

The resolution said the balance of powers "must be fully respected and adhered to and all state institutions must strictly function within the limits imposed on them by the constitution."

Critics have predicted the civilian government's demise many times since it was elected in 2008 after 10 years of military rule, and it has always defied the forecasts. But this time around, the crisis has drawn the army in more directly, and the court seems to be in no mood to compromise

New probe vows to cut deeper in Japan nuke crisis

TOKYO (AP)—A newly formed investigative panel on Japan's nuclear disaster will use its subpoena powers wisely and cut deeper into the accident than the government's probe, the leader of the independent commission said Monday.

The panel appointed by parliament last month has gained attention here because its 10 members include outspoken critics of Japan's nuclear policy who long ago questioned the seismic risks to the country's 54 nuclear reactors.

It is expected to examine the extent to which the 9.0-magnitude earthquake contributed to the crisis at the Fukushima Daiichi power plant, as well as the ensuing tsunami and radiation alert system. Interim reports by the government and Tokyo Electric Power Co. focused on the tsunami and deny the quake itself caused damage that led to fires, reactor meltdowns and radiation leaks from the plant.

"We will get to the bottom of the case and compile a proposal for the future as we strive to live up to the people's expectations," panel chairman Kiyoshi Kurokawa told reporters after the commission had its first full open meeting. "We will seek how we can be different from the government panel."

During the meeting, a government official who was summoned to provide overview of the ministry's accident response revealed that Japan had provided crucial radiation leakage data to the U.S. on March 14, nearly 10 days before disclosing them to its own people.

Top government officials have come under fire for failing to use data produced by the radiation warning system, known as SPEEDI, for evacuation when the reactors were in critical condition. They said they couldn't use them due to the lack of accurate data. The disclosure could renew criticism over the government bungling of the evacuation.

But Itaru Watanabe, an Education Ministry official in charge of radiation monitoring, told the panel that the SPEEDI data were given to the U.S. military via Japan's Foreign Ministry "for use in their relief effort."

The panel is the first bipartisan investigative panel appointed by parliament in its modern political history, said Kurokawa, an expert of internal medicine and a professor at the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies.

It is also the first that can request that parliament subpoena witnesses and documents, although the lack of a penalty for objectors raises questions on its effectiveness. The panel will submit its findings to parliament around June for action to be taken.

ASIAN BRIEFS

US urges South Korea to cut oil imports from Iran

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—A senior U.S. official is urging South Korea to reduce its crude oil imports from Iran to put pressure on Tehran over its nuclear program. U.S. State Department official Robert Einhorn on Tuesday also urged Seoul to "unwind" its financial dealings with Tehran's central bank. South Korea restricts financial dealings with more than 200 groups and individuals with suspected links to Iran's nuclear program. But Seoul hasn't yet announced plans to cut oil purchases from Iran.

Vietnam launches first locally made warship

HANOI, Vietnam (AP)—State media say Vietnam has launched its first domestically made warship equipped with artillery and missile systems. Online newspaper VnExpress says the ship took a military-run company two years to build. It was delivered to the navy on Monday. It did not describe the ship's size, but said it has modern artillery and missile systems and an operation range of 2,500 nautical miles (2,880 miles; 4,600 kilometers). It quoted Rear Admiral Pham Ngoc Minh as saying the ship will be used to patrol the country's territorial waters.

Aussie police downgrade charges for mooning queen

BRISBANE, Australia (AP)—Australian police have downgraded charges against a man who mooned Queen Elizabeth II and her husband Prince Philip as they drove past tens of thousands of well-wishers during a visit to the Australian east coast city of Brisbane. Police told Brisbane Magistrates Court on Tuesday that they have dropped a charge of willful exposure against 22-year-old Sydney barman Liam Lloyd Warriner for baring his buttocks to the 85-year-old British monarch and her 90-year-old husband in October. The charge carries a maximum penalty of one year in prison. Defense attorney John-Paul Mould told Magistrate Brian Hine that Warriner will plead guilty to a lesser charge of creating a public nuisance and will appear for sentencing on Feb. 14. The charge carries a maximum penalty of six months in jail.

World

Missing raised to 29 in Italian cruise disaster

ROME (AP)—Italy's cruise liner tragedy turned into an environmental crisis Monday, as rough seas battering the stricken mega-ship raised fears that fuel might leak into pristine waters off Tuscany that are part of a protected sanctuary for dolphins, porpoises and whales.

The ship's Italian operator accused the jailed captain of causing the wreck that left at least six dead and 29 missing, saying he made an "unapproved, unauthorized maneuver" to divert the vessel from its programmed course.

Earlier, authorities had said 16 people were missing. But an Italian Coast Guard official, Marco Brusco, said late Monday that 25 passengers and four crew members were unaccounted for three days after the Costa Concordia struck a reef and capsized off the coast of the tiny island of Giglio.

He didn't explain the jump, but indicated 10 of the missing are Germans. Two Americans are also among the missing.

Brusco said there was still "a glimmer of hope" there could be survivors on parts of the vast cruise liner that have yet to be searched. The last survivor, a crewman who had broken his leg, was rescued on Sunday.

Waters that had remained calm for the first days of the rescue turned choppy Monday, shifting the wreckage and raising fears that any further movement could cause some of the 500,000 gallons (1.9 million liters) of fuel on board to leak into the waters off Giglio, which are popular with scuba divers and form part of the protected Tuscan archipelago. Rescue operations were suspended for several hours because of the rough seas.

Italy's environmental minister raised the alarm about a potential environmental catastrophe. "At the moment there haven't been any fuel leaks, but we have to intervene quickly," the minister, Corrado Clini, told RAI state radio.

AP

The cruise ship Costa Concordia leans on its side Monday, Jan.16, 2012, after running aground near the tiny Tuscan island of Giglio, Italy, last Friday.

Even before the accident there had been mounting calls from environmentalists to restrict passage of large ships in the area.

The ship's operator, Costa Crociere SpA, has enlisted one of the world's leading salvagers, Smit of Rotterdam, Netherlands, to handle the removal of the 1,000-foot (290-meter) cruise liner and extract the fuel safely. Smit has a long track record of dealing with wrecks and leaks, including refloating grounded bulk carriers and securing drilling platforms in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

Meanwhile, the Italian cruise operator said Capt. Francesco Schettino intentionally strayed from the ship's authorized course into waters too close to the perilous reef, causing it to crash late Friday and capsize.

The navigational version of a "fly by" was apparently made as a favor to the chief waiter who is from Giglio and whose parents live on the island, local media reported.

A judge on Tuesday is to decide whether Schettino should remain jailed.

"We are struck by the unscrupulousness of the reckless maneuver that the commander of the Costa Concordia made near the island of Giglio," prosecutor Francesco Verusio told reporters. "It was inexcusable."

The head of the U.N. agency on maritime safety said lessons must be learned from the Concordia disaster 100 years after the Titanic rammed into an iceberg, leading to the first international convention on sea safety.

"We should seriously consider the lessons to be learned and, if necessary, re-examine the regulations on the safety of large passenger ships in the light of the findings of the casualty investigation," said Koji Sekimizu, secretary-general of the International Maritime Organization.

Miami-based Carnival Corp., which owns the Italian operator, estimated that preliminary losses from having the Concordia out of operation at least through 2012 would be between $85 million and $95 million, though it said there would be other costs as well. The company's share price slumped more than 16 percent Monday.

Two of the missing are Americans, identified by their family as Jerry Heil, 69, and his wife Barbara, 70, from White Bear Lake, Minnesota.

Costa Crociere chairman and CEO Pier Luigi Foschi said the company would provide Schettino with legal assistance, but he disassociated Costa from his behavior, saying it broke all rules and regulations.

"Capt. Schettino took an initiative of his own will which is contrary to our written rules of conduct," Foschi said in his first public comments since the grounding.

At a news conference in Genoa, the company's home base, Foschi said that Costa ships' routes are programmed into their navigational systems, and alarms go off when they deviate. Those alarms are disabled if the ship's course is manually altered, he said.

"This route was put in correctly upon departure from Civitavecchia," Foschi said, referring to the port outside Rome. "The fact that it left from this course is due solely to a maneuver by the commander that was unapproved, unauthorized and unknown to Costa."

Foschi said only once before had the company approved a "fly by" of this sort off Giglio—last year on the night of Aug. 9-10. In that case, the port and company had approved it.

Residents, however, said such displays have occurred several times in the past, though always in the summer when the island is full of tourists.

Foschi didn't respond directly to prosecutors' and passengers' accusations that Schettino abandoned ship before all passengers had been evacuated, but he suggested his conduct wasn't as bad in the hours of the evacuation as has been portrayed. He didn't elaborate.

The Italian coast guard says Schettino defied their entreaties for him to return to his ship as the chaotic evacuation of the more than 4,200 people aboard was in full progress. After the ship's tilt put many life rafts out of service, helicopters had to pluck to safety dozens of people remaining aboard, hours after Schettino was seen leaving the vessel.

The captain has insisted in an interview before his jailing that he stayed with the vessel to the end.

Foschi defended the conduct of the crew, while acknowledging that passengers had described a chaotic evacuation where crew members consistently downplayed the seriousness of the situation as the ship lurched to the side.

"All our crew members behaved like heroes. All of them," he said.

He noted that 4,200 people managed to evacuate a listing ship at night within two hours. In addition, the ship's evacuation procedures had been reviewed last November by an outside firm and port authorities and no faults were found, he said.

WORLD BRIEFS

Al-Qaida in Yemen captures town south of capital

SANAA, Yemen (AP)—A band of al-Qaida militants took full control on Monday of a town 100 miles south of the Yemeni capital Sanaa, overrunning army positions, storming the local prison and freeing at least 150 inmates. The capture of the town of Radda expanded already significant territorial conquests by the militants, who have taken advantage of the weak central government and political turmoil roiling the nation for the past year during an anti-regime uprising inspired by Arab Spring revolts. Authoritarian President Ali Abdullah Saleh recently agreed to step down after months of resisting the protests against his 33-year rule. But he remains a powerful force within the country and a spark for ongoing unrest.

3 more women held in Mexico child-trafficking case

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Mexican investigators detained three more women in the city of Guadalajara in connection with an apparent child-trafficking ring that aimed to supply babies to Irish couples, authorities said Monday. Authorities also took a tenth child, a 9-month old boy, into custody, the Jalisco state prosecutor's office said in a statement. It said the three women were detained at a ranch in Tonala, a suburb of Guadalajara, while taking care of the baby boy. They told authorities they had been hired as nannies to take care of children in the process of being adopted, prosecutors said.

PM warns violence could destabilize Romania

BUCHAREST, Romania (AP)—More than 1,000 demonstrators jeered government austerity measures in downtown Bucharest on Monday as Romania's prime minister warned that violent clashes like those that left 59 injured over the weekend could jeopardize stability and economic growth. Protesters who gathered in freezing temperatures for a fifth day of demonstrations chanted "Freedom!" and held banners saying "Hunger and poverty have gripped Romania!" They waved flags with the center ripped out, a symbol of the 1989 uprising against former Communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu. A car parked in the vicinity was set on fire but firefighters put out the blaze. There were no reports of injuries.

UK scientists find 'lost' Darwin fossils

LONDON (AP)—British scientists have found scores of fossils the great evolutionary theorist Charles Darwin and his peers collected but that had been lost for more than 150 years. Dr. Howard Falcon-Lang, a paleontologist at Royal Holloway, University of London, said Tuesday that he stumbled upon the glass slides containing the fossils in an old wooden cabinet that had been shoved in a "gloomy corner" of the massive, drafty British Geological Survey. Using a flashlight to peer into the drawers and hold up a slide, Falcon-Lang saw one of the first specimens he had picked up was labeled 'C. Darwin Esq." "It took me a while just to convince myself that it was Darwin's signature on the slide," the paleontologist said, adding he soon realized it was a "quite important and overlooked" specimen.

Focus

This March 2010 photo provided by Emory University shows Liz Milewicz, former project manager for African-Origins. AP

Scholars want help identifying slaves' origins

WASHINGTON (AP)—Almost two centuries before there was a man named Obama in the White House, there was a man named Obama shackled in the bowels of a slave ship. There is no proof that the unidentified Obama has ties to President Barack Obama. All they share is a name. But that is exactly the commonality that Emory University researchers hope to build upon as they delve into the origins of Africans who were taken up and sold.

They have built an online database around those names, and welcome input from people who may share a name that's in the database, or have such names as part of their family lore.

"The whole point of the project is to ask the African diaspora, people with any African background, to help us identify the names because the names are so ethno-linguistically specific, we can actually locate the region in Africa to which the individual belonged on the basis of the name," said David Eltis, an Emory University history professor who heads the database research team.

So far, two men named Obama sit among some 9,500 captured Africans whose names were written on line after line in the registries of obscure, 19th century slave trafficking courts. The courts processed the human chattel freed from ships that were intercepted and detoured to Havana, Cuba or Freetown, Sierra Leone. Most of the millions of Africans enslaved before 1807 were known only by numbers, said James Walvin, an expert on the trans-Atlantic slave trade. Once bought by slave owners, the Africans' names were lost. Africans captured by the Portuguese were baptized and given "Christian" names aboard the ships that were taking them into slavery.

But original African names—surnames were uncommon for Africans in the 19th century—are rich with information. Some reveal the day of the week an individual was born or whether that individual was the oldest, youngest or middle child or a twin. They can also reveal ethnic or linguistic groups.

The president's father was from Kenya, on the eastern coast of Africa, and Eltis said it was rare for captives to hail from areas far from the port where their ships set sail. The unidentified Obamas on the slave ships sailed from west Africa. Walvin, author of "The Zong," a book about the slave trade, said there were Africans who had been brought great distances before they were forced onto ships.

"Often their enslavement had begun much earlier, deep in the African interior, most of them captured through acts of violence, warfare or kidnap, or for criminal activity ..." Walvin said in his book, which chronicles the true story of a captain who ordered a third of the slaves aboard his ship thrown overboard due to a shortage of drinking water.

Obama's ancestors, a nomadic people known as the River Lake Nilotes, migrated from Bahr-el-Ghazal Province in Sudan toward Uganda and into Western Kenya, according to Sally Jacobs, author of "The Other Barack", a book about the president's father. They were part of several clans and subclans that eventually became the Luo people of Kenya, Jacobs writes.

The president's great-grandfather's name was Obama. Obama is derived from the word "bam", meaning crooked or indirect, she said in her book.

But it's also possible that Obama was a name used by other cultural groups in Africa and for whom the name had a different meaning.

The slaves found aboard intercepted ships provided their names, age and sometimes where they were from, through translators, to English and Spanish speaking court registrars who wrote their names as they sounded to them.

Body scars or identifying marks also were recorded. The details were logged in an attempt to prevent the Africans from being enslaved again, which didn't always work.

Emory's researchers are including audio clips of the names as they would likely be pronounced in Africa.

"These people enslaved were not just a nebulous group of people with no place and no name," said Kwesi DeGraft-Hanson, one of the researchers, who has found variations of his name, his brother's and his children's names in the database. He is originally from Ghana. "That's how lot of us view slavery. We don't have names faces to go with it ... It makes them that much more removed from us."

Eltis and his researchers acknowledge the database may not help African Americans with genealogical research because records on the Africans once they were freed from the ships are harder to find, if they exist at all.

However, the project provides another piece in a major jigsaw, and helps put together a bigger picture on slavery, Walvin said.

Before this project, Eltis and others assembled a database of 35,000 trans-Atlantic slave ship voyages responsible for the flow of more than 10 million Africans to the Americas.

Together, the two databases provide some details on the horrific voyages of the Africans, including the Obamas.

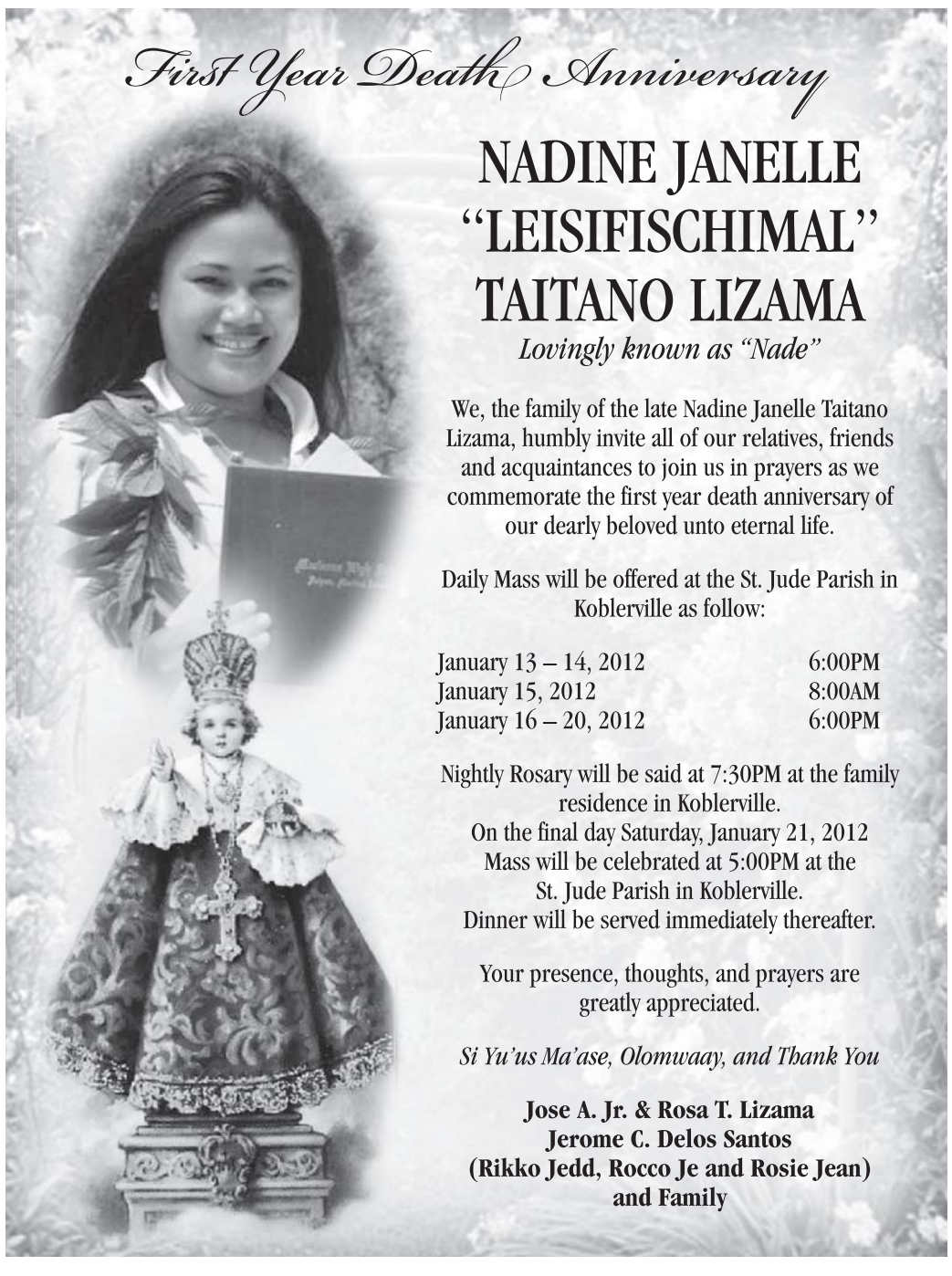
The Xerxes, which carried one of the unidentified Obamas, was a 138-foot schooner that began its voyage in Havana with a crew of 44. Five guns were mounted aboard when the ship left on a slave purchasing trip to Bonny on Feb. 10, 1828.

Sailing under the Spanish flag, the ship's captain Felipe Rebel purchased 429 slaves, nearly one third of them children, before setting out on a return trip to the Americas. But on June 26, 1828, the Xerxes was intercepted and forced to dock at an unknown Cuban port. By then, 26 slaves had died.

The other unidentified Obama, 6-foot-3-inches tall, was one of 562 Africans shackled in the belly of the Midas. The vessel was a Brig, a fast, maneuverable ship with two square-rigged masts. It was equipped with eight guns.

Midas' captain J. Martinez and a crew of 53 left Cuba on an unknown date. It left Bonny with 562 slaves but was intercepted. It docked in Cuba July 8, 1829 minus 162 slaves who had died during the voyage.

Some slaves freed from seized ships were returned to Africa, but not always to their original homelands. Some were sent to Liberia or were allowed to remain free in the cities where the courts were located. Some may have been re-enslaved and some died on ships that were returning them to Africa.


First Year Death Anniversary
NADINE JANELLE
"LEISIFISCHIMAL"
TAITANO LIZAMA
Lovingly known as "Nade"
We, the family of the late Nadine Janelle Taitano Lizama, humbly invite all of our relatives, friends and acquaintances to join us in prayers as we commemorate the first year death anniversary of our dearly beloved unto eternal life.
Daily Mass will be offered at the St. Jude Parish in Koblerville as follow:
January 13 – 14, 2012 6:00PM
January 15, 2012 8:00AM
January 16 – 20, 2012 6:00PM
Nightly Rosary will be said at 7:30PM at the family residence in Koblerville.
On the final day Saturday, January 21, 2012
Mass will be celebrated at 5:00PM at the St. Jude Parish in Koblerville.
Dinner will be served immediately thereafter.
Your presence, thoughts, and prayers are greatly appreciated.
Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Olomwaay, and Thank You
Jose A. Jr. & Rosa T. Lizama
Jerome C. Delos Santos
(Rikko Jedd, Rocco Je and Rosie Jean)
and Family

Campus Life

Oy vey! Yiddish making a comeback at colleges

By DORIE TURNER
AP EDUCATION WRITER

ATLANTA (AP)—A group of American college students stands in a semicircle, clapping and hopping on one foot as they sing in Yiddish: "Az der rebe tantst, tantsn ale khsidim!"

In English, the lyrics mean: "When the rebbe dances, so do all the Hasidim."

This isn't music appreciation or even a class at a synagogue. It's the first semester of Yiddish at Emory University in Atlanta—one of just a handful of college programs across the country studying the Germanic-based language of Eastern European Jews.

The language came close to dying out after the Holocaust as millions of Yiddish speakers either perished in Nazi concentration camps or fled to other countries where their native tongue was not welcome. Emory and other universities like Johns Hopkins in Baltimore and McGill University in Canada are working to bring the language back, and with it, an appreciation for the rich history of European Jewish culture and art.

"If we want to preserve this, we need to do so actively and consciously," said Miriam Udel, a Yiddish professor at Emory who uses song to teach the language. "The generation that passively knows Yiddish is dying out. There are treasures that need to be preserved because we'll lose access to them if we let Yiddish die."

Experts estimate there are between 1 million and 2 million native Yiddish speakers in the world, but only about 500,000 speak it in the home—mostly orthodox Jews. When YIVO Institute for Jewish Research in New York City began offering summer programs in Yiddish in 1968, they were the only such program in the world.

Now, they compete with summer intensive Yiddish programs in Tel Aviv, Israel; Ottawa, Canada; Indiana and Arizona, said YIVO's dean, Paul Glasser. About 20 colleges and universities in the U.S. and Canada now offer some Yiddish courses, though just a few of them have degrees in the language.

The interest has grown because of the younger Jewish generation, which doesn't feel their parents' embarrassment that their family spoke Yiddish rather than English, Glasser said.

"Eighteen-year-olds today don't have that," he said. "There's nothing to be embarrassed about. No one can question their American-ness."

Emory student Matthew Birnbaum, a junior, said he took Udel's Yiddish class because he feels a personal connection to the language—his grandparents still speak it.

"It's taught me a lot about my own roots and where my people have come from," he said. "It's been a really interesting learning experience, not just from the language perspective but also from the historical perspective."

It's not just college classes where the interest in Yiddish has grown.

Klezmer music has made a comeback with young musicians like Canadian Yiddish hip-hop artist Socalled—whose real name is Josh Dolgin—and Daniel Kahn, a New York-based folk singer who is recording with some of the most popular Yiddish performers in the world.

At the 'Folksbiene' national Yiddish theater and the New Yiddish Rep theater company, both in New York City, young actors flood auditions for "Gimpl Tam" and "The Learning Play of Rabbi Levi-Yitzhok, Son of Sara, of Berditchev." The Congress for Jewish Culture holds coffee houses monthly where young Yiddish musicians perform and bring in guest speakers like graphic novel artist Ben Katchor, hoping to appeal to a younger audience.

A search for Yiddish on Facebook produces dozens of links to groups like "Di Kats der Payats (The Cat in the Hat in Yiddish)" and "Yiddish Slang Dictionary."

"This is what everyone in Yiddish is trying to do: to get to the younger generations and show people what's out there," said Shane Baker, president of the congress and a non-Jewish actor who appears in Yiddish productions at Folkspiene and New Yiddish Rep. "They used to say in the family: 'Speak Yiddish so the children don't understand if you're talking about something serious or arguing.' Now a hook is: 'Speak Yiddish so your parents won't know what you're saying.'"

At Emory, Udel's students spend a semester learning Yiddish grammar through songs and reading before performing the music a cappella at Atlanta nursing homes and Emory's Jewish student center. The performances give them more confidence in their language abilities and help them connect with older Yiddish speakers, she said.

All the students in this semester's class are Jewish, Udel said, but she's had non-Jews—or goyim—in past years.

The class had only a handful of students when upperclassmen registered for courses over the summer, but the class filled up during freshman registration, Udel said.

Death and Funeral Announcement

In Loving Memory of

Angelina San Nicolas Muna

Lovingly known as

"Angie" or "Kang Kang"

May 20, 1942 – January 12, 2012

In her New Life , she now joins her:

Father:	Tobias Diaz Muna
Mother:	Estefania S.N. Muna
Daughter:	Patricia M. Cabrera
Granddaughter:	Aloni Marie Cabrera
Great Grandson:	Landon Toby Palacios
Parents-in-Law:	Joaquin SN, Victoria Dela Cruz Cabrera & Ana S. Cabrera
Brothers and Sister-in-Law:	Jose DLC. & Ana T. Cabrera
	Vicente S. Cabrera
	Rita S. Cabrera
Reared Brother:	Yoshiyuki Onuki

Her memories will live in the hearts of her children:
Victoria C. & Ramon C. Sablan, Children and Grandchildren
Evelyn M. Cabrera & Benjamin Palacios & Children
Raymond M. & Vivian Cabrera & Children
George M. Cabrera & Brenda Repeki, Children and Granddaughter

Brothers, Sisters and In-Laws:
Jose & Darlene C. Muna & Children
Nicolas Muna & Children
Sophia M. Fejeran & Children
Antonio & Pat Muna & Children
Rosita Villar & Children
David & Etsuko Muna & Children
Patricia & Arimitsu Nishimura & Children
Ricardo & Precy Muna & Children
Edward Muna & Irene Funkugub & Children
Daria & James Kintol & Children
Asunta Muna & Children
Victoria Muna & Ray Tudela & Son
Elena & Tito Salas & Son
Fabian & Ladia Muna & Children

In-Laws:
Maria T. Parantar & Children
Juan & Julie A. Cabrera & Children
Rosa T. Cabrera & Children

Reared son:
John Jameson MagsaysayMaher

Special Family Friends:
Isabel C. Villagomez & Jo Ann D. San Agustin

She will also be remembered by numerous Uncles, Aunts, Cousins, Nieces, Nephews and Godchildren.

Daily Mass is being offered at 6:00pm at San Vicente Church. On Friday, January 20, 2012 viewing and last respects will be from 8:00am to 10:00am at the Borja's Funeral Home. The Mass of Christian Burial will be offered at 11:00am at Mount Carmel Cathedral followed by the interment at Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

Your thoughts and prayers are deeply appreciated. God Bless.

Children and Family

Plan to scrap kindergarten program draws protest

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—California educators and childcare advocates are protesting Gov. Jerry Brown's plan to scrap a new program for children who are no longer old enough for kindergarten.

In his plan to close the state budget deficit, Brown proposes to cut funding for "transitional kindergarten," a new grade level created when Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger signed legislation that raised the starting age for kindergarten.

Kellie Little, a salon owner who lives in Marin County, said she was planning to send her son, who turns 5 in November, to the new kindergarten program at her local public school.

"Now I'm going to have to scramble to find another pre-K program," Little said. "It's going to be even more expensive. It's definitely something I wasn't budgeting for. I was planning to get my son into transitional kindergarten."

The 2010 Kindergarten Readiness Act pushes back the date by which children must turn 5 to enter kindergarten from Dec. 2 to Sept. 1. The change will be phased in one month at a time over three years starting this fall.

The legislation established transitional kindergarten for kids who don't make the new cutoff date. The program is to be taught by credentialed teachers and tailored to children who would turn 5 in September, October and November.

The governor's plan would impact an estimated 40,000 children eligible for transitional kindergarten this fall—and about 120,000 kids when the law takes full effect in fall 2014.

Brown is seeking to close an estimated $9.2 billion budget deficit for 2012-2013 with a mix of temporary tax increases and spending cuts to social services and education.

The Democratic governor wants to save an estimated $224 million in the coming fiscal year by not requiring districts to offer transitional kindergarten. That savings would increase to $672 million in 2014-2015 when the kindergarten cutoff date is pushed back to Sept. 1.

"Given the fiscal situation the state is in, we should not embark on this type of a program expansion at this time," said H.D. Palmer, Brown's finance spokesman. "This is one of the difficult decisions that was necessary to close a budget gap of $9 billion."

Life & Style

UK: No public funding for new royal yacht

LONDON (AP)—What do you get for a monarch who has almost everything? Not, apparently, a new yacht, at least not one paid for with taxpayer funds.

That was the message Monday as a brief boomlet of support for the idea of providing Queen Elizabeth II with a new royal yacht to mark her Diamond Jubilee was quickly deflated by Prime Minister David Cameron.

It is estimated that a new yacht would cost at least 60 million pounds ($92 million).

Cameron's spokesman Steve Field said it would not be appropriate for public funds to be spent on a new yacht during times of economic hardship. But he said the government would be supportive of private efforts to provide a new ship for the queen.

He acknowledged that ministers have been approached over plans to raise donations for a privately funded vessel and that the government "would react favorably" to a firm plan.

"There are a number of proposals out there for a privately financed yacht," Field said.

Cameron has been contacted over the proposals and Britain's government could potentially play a role in facilitating the construction of a new royal flagship - even though no taxpayer money would be used.

"I don't think anyone is suggesting public money should be used for this," Field told reporters Monday. "There is a difficult economic situation, there are scarce public resources, therefore we don't think it would be an appropriate use of public money."

The idea of a new royal yacht was proposed by Education Secretary Michael Gove, who suggested in a leaked letter that the queen should receive a replacement for the Royal Yacht Britannia, which was decommissioned in 1997 after 44 years as a floating royal residence known to have been cherished by the queen.

He said the jubilee offers a "tremendous opportunity to recognize in a very fitting way the queen's highly significant contribution to the life of the nation and the Commonwealth."

Royal watchers who have followed the queen's long career remember that one of the very few times she has shown emotion in public was when she shed a tear at the decommissioning of the Britannia, which is now berthed in Edinburgh as a tourist display.

The ship sprang a leak earlier in January, requiring repair work.

It is not clear if the queen even wants a new yacht. She is in her mid-80s and her husband, Prince Philip, is 90 and was recently found to have heart disease.

Buckingham Palace officials said they would not be commenting on the matter.

AP
A June 23, 1997 photo from files showing the Royal Yacht Britannia passing the new Hong Kong Convention Center in Hong Kong Harbor.

Marvel head: Creativity will drive comics in 2012

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Stop counting comic books out.

That's the assessment of Dan Buckley, publisher and president of Marvel Comics, the long-time purveyor of stories about the exploits of characters including the Fantastic Four, Spider-Man and the X-Men.

The industry, which reported modest increases during the recent recession, is still growing, though the level has tapered off, Buckley said. But it still remains vibrant because of the creativity engendered by new characters, reboots and, in the case of rival DC Comics, a total relaunch that generated new interest and buzz, something that other publishers benefited from.

"This is an American storytelling medium that people love and respect," Buckley said, noting that Marvel retained its ranking as the top comics publisher again last year. He attributed the company's success to deeper storytelling and moving readers with the deaths of some well-known characters and the reinvigoration of some old favorites, too.

Diamond Comic Distributors Inc., a Baltimore-based company that distributes comics, graphic novels and pop culture merchandise to more than 4,000 shops worldwide, said that while DC held nine of the top 10 top-selling comic titles for the year, Marvel held the biggest share of the market.

Diamond said Marvel remained atop thanks to demand for issues like "Fantastic Four" No. 587, which featured the death of the Human Torch, and "Ultimate Comics Spider-Man," which saw Miles Morales take up the mantel of the wall crawler after Peter Parker's death.

That helped give the company a 37 percent dollar market share and a 41 percent unit market share.

That, along with DC's New 52, created more interest from new and first-time buyers, and the outlook is set to be similar for 2012.

"Sales of comic books were quite strong in the second half of the year, led by the September launch of DC's New 52 comic books, and that positive trend has continued in the months since," said Diamond President and CEO Steve Geppi. "With a full slate of high-profile new projects scheduled for next year, we are optimistic that comic book sales will increase again in 2012."

Buckley, who joined the company in 2003, said the uptick in sales from 2010 to 2011—up 1.2 percent industrywide—is further proof that buyers will be there, whether in the shops or online through digital comics, if compelling stories are written and drawn.

IN CELEBRATION OF
HIS NEW LIFE

†Urbano
Crisostomo
Babauta, Sr.

May 04, 1936 – January 14, 2012

His Memories will forever live in the hearts of his
Wife: Dolores Duenas Babauta
Children, Grandchildren and Great-Grandchildren:
Teresita B. and John Buacayao (Brenda, Brandon)
†Juan D. and Maribeth F. Babauta (Lestor John/ Mirelle – Skyler, Lirelle), (Kristal Ann, Janee Marie)
Ana M. and Greg Dawes
Jesus D. and Frances C. Babauta (Therese Ann, Tanya Lynn, Brandon Jay, Christopher Jerome, Tiara Jaime, Alexander Jude)
Maria B. and Oscar M. Masga (Desiree Ann – Kody Jack), (Andrew Steven/Clarissa–Anissa Faith), (Doreen Marcie), (Oscar Jr. / Dianalynn – Travis Mark), (Darcy Christine)
Urbano D. Jr. and Lavena C. Babauta (Ashley Caitlyn, Alyssa Carolyn)
Concepcion B. and Edward Basa Sr. (Natasha Rachel, Edlyne Nicole, Edward Jr., Dolores Soledad)

He is also survived by:
Brothers, Sisters and In-Laws:
Roke C. and †Adela DLC. Babauta, Joaquin C. and Remedio C. Babauta, Maria B. and Vicente Songsong, Luis C. Babauta, †Magdalena Noor, Ines Duenas, George and †Margarita Duenas, Bernadita C. and Jesus Taitano, Alexandro C. and Carmen Castro, Agusta Cruz, Fernando C. Ada, Barbara Cruz

He will also be missed be numerous nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

Daily Mass of Intentions are being celebrated every morning at 6:00am at Kristo Rai Church and at San Vicente Church at 6:00pm.

His remains will be arriving from Guam tomorrow, Thursday, January 19,2012 at 10:30am and will lie in state at Nuestra Senora dela Paz Memorial Chapel. Nightly Rosary will be recited at Kristo Rai Church at 7:30pm beginning on Thursday, January 19, 2012.

Funeral Services will be held on Monday, January 23, 2012. His remains will be escorted from Nuestra Senora dela Paz Memorial Chapel at 7:30am to Kristo Rai Church. Responso Service will be at 7:45am followed by Holy Rosary at 8:00am. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00am. Interment Services will be at Sanctuario Pax Memorial Gardens in Kagman where he will be at a peaceful rest.

Please join us in prayers,

Dolores "Ling" Duenas Babauta
Children and Family

A tamer Gervais leads predictable Golden Globes

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—The Hollywood Foreign Press Association dared to let Ricky Gervais come back and host the Golden Globe Awards, a year after he insulted the organization and nearly everyone in the star-studded room with his lacerating wit.

But Gervais and the show seemed tamer and more predictable this year, not quite living up to outrageous reputations. Even the winners themselves, including "The Descendants" and its star, George Clooney, were predictable.

The victory for "The Descendants" in the best drama category sets it up in an expected battle at the Academy Awards with "The Artist," which won the award for best musical or comedy. Both had been frontrunners all along among people who are the business of prognosticating these things; Oscar nominations will be announced Jan. 24, with the ceremony itself coming Feb. 26.

Clooney won for his portrayal of a middle-aged husband struggling to raise his two daughters while their mother is in a coma. Jean Dujardin won the same award in the musical or comedy category for "The Artist" as a silent film actor whose career derails with the arrival of sound. ("The Artist" won the most film awards with three total, including one for Ludovic Bource's original score.)

It took the presenters and winners themselves to liven up the program—and that includes Uggie, Dujardin's scene-stealing Jack Russell terrier in "The Artist," who performed some of his signature tricks on stage toward the end of the night.

AP

In this image released by NBC, George Clooney accepts the award for best actor for his role in "The Descendants" during the 69th Annual Golden Globe Awards on Sunday, Jan. 15, 2012 in Los Angeles.

While Gervais dropped an F-bomb a couple hours into the broadcast—likely an accident after some imbibing on and off-stage—he also took aim at easy targets like Kim Kardashian. Later, wine glass in hand, he emerged from the wings to express delight in having "a job where you can get drunk and say what you want, and they still pay you."

After he introduced Madonna with a series of hackneyed puns about her song titles, including "Like a Virgin," the pop star shot back.

"If I'm still just like a virgin, Ricky, then why don't you come over here and do something about it?" she deadpanned. "I haven't kissed a girl in a few years—on TV."

Male genitalia was a frequent theme. Tina Fey and Jane Lynch teamed up to make a penis pun inspired by "Hung" star Thomas Jane. Seth Rogen, taking the stage with the gorgeous Kate Beckinsale, cracked: "Hello, I'm Seth Rogen, and I'm currently trying to conceal a massive erection." And Clooney, in accepting his best-actor award, made a joke about fellow nominee Michael Fassbender, who plays a sex addict in "Shame."

"I'd like to thank Michael Fassbender for taking over the full-frontal nudity responsibility that I had," and Clooney then went on to suggest Fassbender could play golf with his hands behind his back.

Even Meryl Streep—the grand dame of them all who won for best actress in a drama for her portrayal of former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher in "The Iron Lady"—let an expletive slip during her acceptance speech. Streep got flustered when she realized she forgot her glasses at her table; instead she winged it, giving a rambling (but gracious) speech praising other actresses' performances, including some who hadn't even been nominated that night.

Two of Hollywood's most veteran and esteemed directors also were winners Sunday night, both of whom were venturing into 3-D for the first time: Martin Scorsese for best director for the family fantasy "Hugo" and Steven Spielberg for best animated film for "The Adventures of Tintin." Meanwhile, Woody Allen won for his screenplay for "Midnight in Paris"—but naturally, he wasn't there to accept the statue in person. The comedy is his biggest hit in decades but he's typically reluctant to attend awards shows.

Things were much more fresh and inspired on the television side of the ceremony, with daring shows earning honors and longtime stars going home with statues for new roles.

"Homeland" on Showtime, which explores terrorism and an Iraq war veteran, earned awards for best drama and best actress in a drama for star Claire Danes. It was Danes' third Globe; she won her first when she was just 15 for "My So-Called Life."

Former "Frasier" star Kelsey Grammer won best actor in a drama for Starz's "Boss," while former "Friends" star Matt LeBlanc won best actor in a musical or comedy for Showtime's "Episodes."

ABC's "Modern Family" was the big winner among commercial broadcast networks, following up its Emmy for best television comedy by winning the Golden Globe. Creator Steve Levitan and actress Sofia Vergara accepted the award with a comic riff in which she spoke in Spanish and Levitan "translated."

Let's hope the after-parties got wilder.

Golden Globes seen by almost 17 million viewers

NEW YORK (AP)—The Nielsen Co. says Sunday's Golden Globes ceremony was seen by 16.8 million TV viewers. It beat all network competition in its time period but dipped slightly from last year's audience for the film and TV awards show.

According to time zone-adjusted Nielsen "fast national" figures released Monday, the Globes finished within 1 percent of the 17 million viewers who tuned in to the 2011 broadcast.

Carried by NBC from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. Eastern time, the program aired live in every time zone. Some western markets also carried an encore telecast immediately following the live coverage.

British comedian-actor Ricky Gervais returned for his third go as host, lampooning many of the nominees, presenters and even the sponsoring Hollywood Foreign Press Association.

Beyonce gets fly with golden booty named after her

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—A newly discovered horse fly in Australia was so "bootylicious" with its golden-haired bum, there was only one name worthy of its beauty: Beyonce.

Previously published results from Bryan Lessard, a 24-year-old researcher at Australia's Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization, were recently announced on the species that had been sitting in a fly collection since it was captured in 1981—the same year pop diva Beyonce was born.

He says he wanted to pay respect to the insect's beauty by naming it Scaptia (Plinthina) beyonceae.

Lessard said Beyonce would be "in the nature history books forever" and that the fly now bearing her name is "pretty bootylicious" with its golden backside.

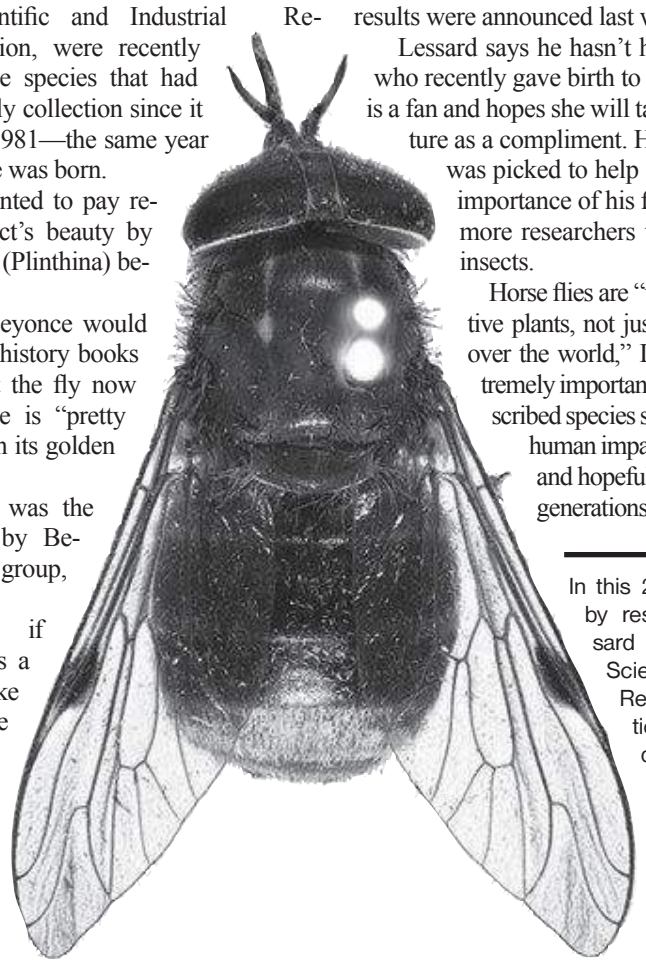
"Bootylicious" was the title of a song by Beyonce's previous group, Destiny's Child.

It's unknown if the rare species is a bloodsucker like many female horse flies. Lessard says he was unable to find any live specimens when he went looking in 2010 in northeast Queensland's Atherton Tablelands, where it was captured three decades ago. However, at least one member of the public has alerted him that he was recently bitten by what's locally called the "gold bum fly."

The description of the fly was earlier published in the Australian Journal of Entomology, but the results were announced last week.

Lessard says he hasn't heard from Beyonce, who recently gave birth to her first child, but he is a fan and hopes she will take his scientific gesture as a compliment. He also said the name was picked to help draw attention to the importance of his field and the need for more researchers to catalog and study insects.

Horse flies are "vital pollinators of native plants, not just in Australia, but all over the world," Lessard said. "It's extremely important to name all the undescribed species so we can measure our human impact on the environment and hopefully protect it for future generations to enjoy."



In this 2009 photo released by researcher Bryan Lessard of Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO), a newly discovered horse fly in Austrlia with its golden-haired bum is shown at the Australian National Insect Collection, Canberra, Australia.

'Contraband' takes weekend box office with $28.8M

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Mark Wahlberg smuggling drama "Contraband" stole the top spot at box office away from the 3-D rerelease of "Beauty and the Beast" and the musical comedy "Joyful Noise" with a $28.8 million debut haul, while "Mission: Impossible- Ghost Protocol" earned $14.2 million in its fifth weekend to take third place.

The top 20 movies at U.S. and Canadian theaters Friday through Sunday, followed by distribution studio, gross, number of theater locations, average receipts per location, total gross and number of weeks in release, as compiled Monday by Hollywood.com are:

1. ***"Contraband,"*** Universal, $28,816,095, 2,863 locations, $10,065 average, $28,816,095, one week.

2. ***"Beauty and the Beast,"*** Disney, $23,507,000, 2,625 locations, $8,955 average, $23,507,000, one week.

3. ***"Mission: Impossible-Ghost Protocol,"*** Paramount, $14,200,000, 3,346 locations, $4,244 average, $189,447,000, five weeks.

4. ***"Joyful Noise,"*** Warner Bros., $13,785,000, 2,735 locations, $5,040 average, $13,785,000, one week.

5. ***"Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows,"*** Warner Bros., $10,505,000, 3,155 locations, $3,330 average, $172,105,000, five weeks.

6. ***"The Devil Inside,"*** Paramount Insurge, $9,175,000, 2,551 locations, $3,597 average, $47,522,000, two weeks.

7. ***"The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo,"*** Sony, $8,100,000, 2,674 locations, $3,029 average, $89,281,000, four weeks.

8. ***"Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked,"*** Fox, $7,825,000, 2,849 locations, $2,747 average, $120,806,288, five weeks.

9. ***"War Horse,"*** Disney, $7,166,000, 2,856 locations, $2,509 average, $67,338,000, four weeks.

10. **"We Bought a Zoo,"** Fox, $6,800,000, 2,909 locations, $2,338 average, $65,288,534, four weeks.

11. ***"The Iron Lady,"*** Weinstein Co., $6,474,000, 802 locations, $8,072 average, $7,061,621, three weeks.

12. ***"The Adventures of Tintin,"*** Paramount, $5,225,000, 2,073 locations, $2,521 average, $68,930,000, four weeks.

13. ***"Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy,"*** Focus, $3,800,000, 886 locations, $4,289 average, $15,742,540, six weeks.

14. ***"The Descendants,"*** Fox Searchlight, $2,530,000, 660 locations, $3,833 average, $47,534,196, nine weeks.

15. ***"The Artist,"*** Weinstein Co., $1,470,000, 216 locations, $6,806 average, $9,066,779, eight weeks.

16. ***"Hugo,"*** Paramount, $1,325,000, 545 locations, $2,431 average, $54,442,000, eight weeks.

17. ***"New Year's Eve,"*** Warner Bros., $1,275,000, 1,092 locations, $1,168 average, $53,929,000, six weeks.

18. ***"The Darkest Hour,"*** Summit, $1,265,000, 1,182 locations, $1,070 average, $20,714,174, four weeks.

19. ***"The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn - Part 1,"*** Summit, $942,000, 708 locations, $1,331 average, $279,811,685, nine weeks.

20. ***"Carnage,"*** Sony Pictures Classics, $904,567, 494 locations, $1,831 average, $1,491,032, five weeks.

AP

In this Oct. 11, 2011 file photo Polish pop singer Dorota "Doda" Rabczewska is photographed in Warsaw, Poland.

Poland slaps fine on singer for bashing Bible

WARSAW, Poland (AP)—A Polish court slapped a fine on a popular singer who bad-mouthed the Bible—the latest episode in which authorities grapple with religious defamation in a traditionally Catholic country that is growing increasingly secular.

Dorota Rabczewska, a singer who uses the stage name Doda, said in a 2009 interview that she doubted the Bible "because it's hard to believe in something that was written by someone drunk on wine and smoking some herbs."

A Warsaw court ordered her Monday to pay a fine of 5,000 zlotys ($1,450) for offending religious feelings.

The case comes months after another Polish court let off a death metal performer, Adam Darski, who tore a Bible during a 2007 performance. It deemed his act artistic expression.

Darski and Rabczewska once dated.

Kid Rock apologizes after cigar complaint

WARREN, Mich. (AP)—Kid Rock has apologized after a man complained that the musician smoked a cigar at a nonsmoking venue in the Detroit area.

Randy Snell says Kid Rock lit the cigar while attending country singer Travis Tritt's show Friday at Andiamo Celebrity Showroom in Warren.

Spokesman Nick Stern told The Detroit News that Kid Rock offered his "most sincere apologies" to patrons he may have offended. He said he had been drinking alcohol.

Fifty-eight-year-old Randy Snell, of Trenton, has asthma and says he plans to file a health department complaint. Michigan law prohibits smoking at workplaces including bars and restaurants.

Kid Rock was born Robert Ritchie. He grew up in and lives in suburban Detroit.

Swift teases songs about heartbreak on next album

NEW YORK (AP)—Should Jake Gyllenhaal be worried?

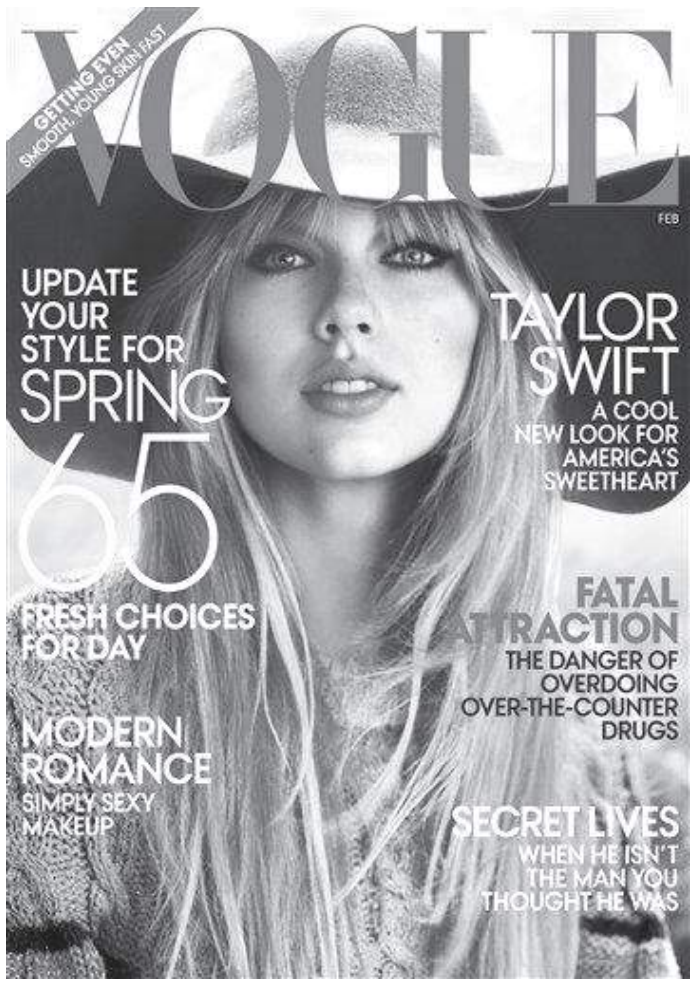
Taylor Swift graces the cover of Vogue's February issue and tells the magazine her next album will be about an "absolute crash-and-burn heartbreak" she experienced.

The 22-year-old singer doesn't name names, but she did date Gyllenhaal for a few months in 2010, and he broke up with her.

Swift says it helps her to "feel better" and gain "clarity" by writing songs about her relationships.

She also says she now has a list of "red flags" for if a relationship won't work: If a guy falls in love with her based on her Wikipedia page, is threatened that she needs security, puts her down or is obsessed with privacy, they're not for her.

The February issue of Vogue magazine goes on sale January 24.



In this magazine cover image released by Vogue, singer Taylor Swift appears on the cover of the February 2012 issue of "Vogue."

AP

Christie's to sell Elizabeth Taylor art collection

LONDON (AP)—A Vincent van Gogh landscape and other paintings from the collection of Elizabeth Taylor are up for auction in London next month.

Christie's auction house says 38 works belonging to the late actress will be included in Impressionist and modern sales Feb. 7 and 8.

They include van Gogh's autumn landscape "Vue de l'Asile et de la Chapelle de Saint-Remy," estimated at 5 million to 7 million pounds ($7.6 million to $11 million), as well as an Edgar Degas self-portrait and works by Camille Pissarro and Auguste Renoir.

The daughter of a London art dealer, Taylor amassed a significant collection of 19th and 20th century works.

Her father, Francis Taylor, bought the van Gogh painting in 1963 on his daughter's behalf for $257,600 at a Sotheby's auction in London.

It was later the subject of an ownership battle that ended in 2007, when the U.S. Supreme Court refused to consider a claim brought by descendants of a former owner, a Jewish woman who had fled Germany in 1939.

"Having grown up surrounded by fine art and surrounded by her own canvasses until the end of her life, this collection of paintings was very important to Miss Taylor," said Christie's Impressionist and Modern specialist Giovanna Bertazzoni.

She said the auction "provides collectors with not only a very interesting insight into the icon herself, but also an exciting opportunity to acquire important works by leading Impressionist and modern artists."

Taylor's jewelry, fashions and movie memorabilia raised $156 million at a series of New York auctions last month, with one buyer paying $8.8 million for a 33.19-carat diamond ring given to Taylor by Richard Burton, the actor she married twice.

The screen goddess—whose films included "Cleopatra," "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?" and "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof"—died in March aged 79.

The works will be on display at Christie's London showroom Feb. 2-7.

Proceeds from the sale will go to the Elizabeth Taylor Trust.

AP

Undated photo released by Christie's auction house in London Monday Jan. 16, 2012 of Vincent van Gogh's autumn landscape "Vue de l'Asile et de la Chapelle de Saint-Remy," which was once owned by actress Elizabeth Taylor and estimated to sell for 5 million to 7 million pounds ($7.6 million to $11 million) when auctioned in February 2012.

Daughter joining old profession will be its newest casualty

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: My 18-year-old-daughter, "Olympia," is a beautiful, intelligent young woman who graduated from high school last spring, was accepted to two universities and started her first job. When she lost it recently, she was devastated. Instead of trying to find another one, she decided to turn to prostitution. When I asked her why, she said she doesn't want to work her butt off for peanuts.

Other family members and I have tried to make Olympia see reason, but she's determined to do this. I am extremely frustrated with her decision. I have warned her about the dangers she'll face in that "occupation." I know she's of age now and needs to make her own choices, but I'm afraid for her and don't want to lose her if we have a huge argument over this. What can I do?

ANXIOUS MOM IN SACRAMENTO

DEAR ANXIOUS MOM: For an "adult," your daughter's decision-making leaves a lot to be desired. Prostitution is illegal. It's not a viable career option. Is she aware that her "line of work" offers no job security and the benefits will last only as long as her looks hold up?

Regardless of the argument that may ensue, let her know that although you love her, you are worried sick about her, and disappointed and furious at her poor judgment because she has far more to offer than what she's selling. Warn her she's heading down a path that's hard to come back from. If she won't change her mind, then you must accept that your daughter will have to learn her lessons the hard way. But let her know your door will be open to her.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Are you supposed to ignore an acquaintance when you notice she's in a doctor's waiting room with you? (Especially if it's a specialist's office that makes a particular condition obvious to an otherwise non-privy person?)

This has happened to me twice recently. One time, I avoided the acquaintance; the other, I broke the silence and said, "Is that you, So-and-So?" Both times it was awkward. I can understand why someone wouldn't want to be seen at certain doctors' offices. Should I have played dumb?

STRIVING FOR DISCRETION IN NEW YORK

DEAR STRIVING: No, you should not have "played dumb." In the future, you should acknowledge your acquaintance, but refrain from asking questions. Any questions, including, "How are you?"

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I'm being married in a few months and there's still so much to do. The only thing I have decided so far is the date and location. I have gotten so stressed that I have actually passed out.

I keep asking my fiance to help me with decisions and particulars for the wedding, but he says, "It's your job. You're the bride." Then he continues his lazy ways around the house. How do I get him to help me plan our wedding?

BRIDE IN A PANIC

DEAR BRIDE: How do I get YOU to realize you can't change your fiance, and that this is the man he will be after your wedding? If you manage to pull this event together by yourself, you will still have a husband who is lazy around the house and refuses to help you even when you become so stressed that you pass out.

Your fiance isn't the last man on planet Earth. If he doesn't have any good qualities—you mentioned none—you can do better than this.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby—Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

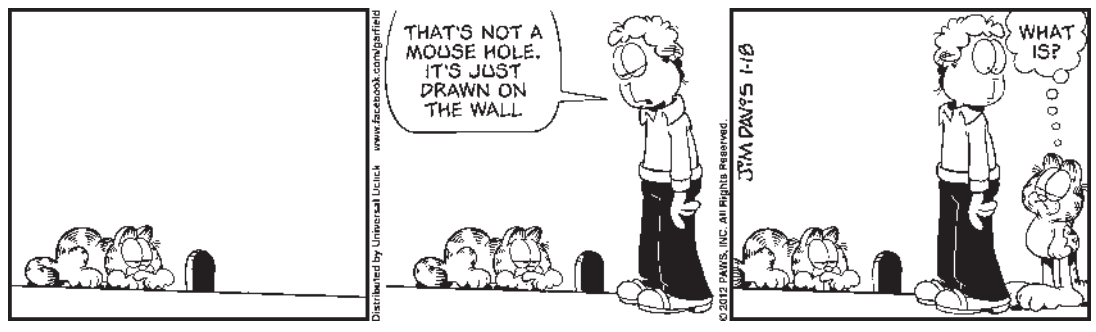
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

OOH, YOU LOOK COLD, CALVIN! THERE'S A FIRE MADE. WHY DON'T YOU GO WARM UP?
OH BOY!
NOTHING BEATS SITTING BY A ROARING FIRE AFTER YOU'VE BEEN OUT IN THE COLD.
OF COURSE, SOME PEOPLE SAY WHY BOTHER GOING OUTSIDE FIRST?

Garfield®

By Jim Davis


THAT'S NOT A MOUSE HOLE. IT'S JUST DRAWN ON THE WALL
WHAT IS?
JIM DAVIS 1-18
Distributed by Universal Uclick www.facebook.com/garfield
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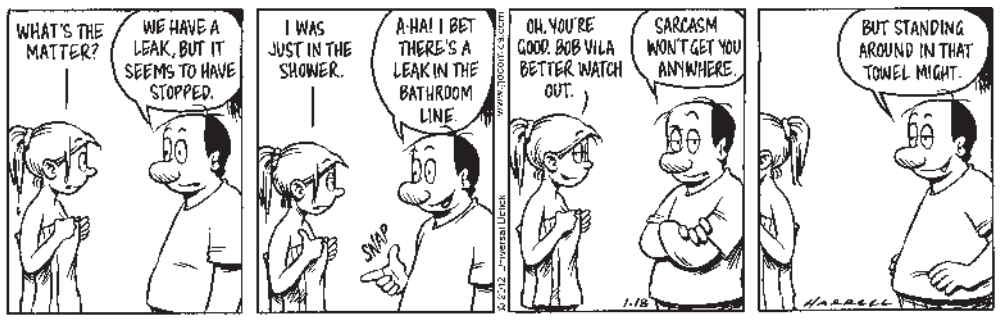
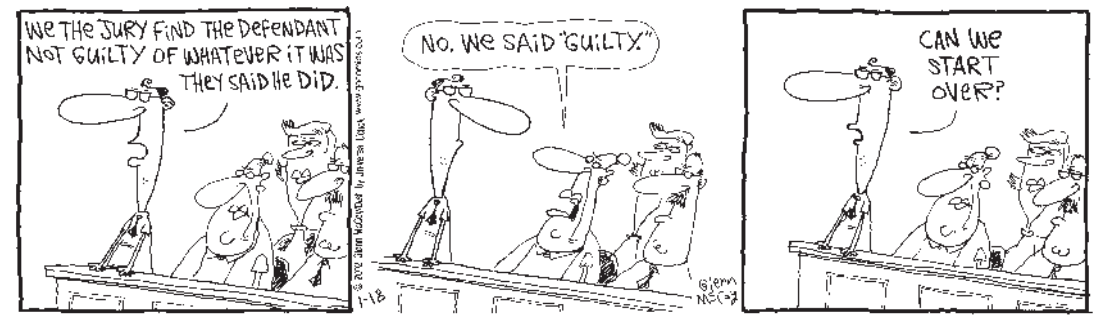
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


WHAT'S THE MATTER?
WE HAVE A LEAK, BUT IT SEEMS TO HAVE STOPPED.
I WAS JUST IN THE SHOWER.
A-HA! I BET THERE'S A LEAK IN THE BATHROOM LINE.
SNAP
OH, YOU'RE GOOD. BOB VILA BETTER WATCH OUT.
SARCASM WON'T GET YOU ANYWHERE.
BUT STANDING AROUND IN THAT TOWEL MIGHT.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 $ dispenser
4 Two-way
8 Use a really old telephone
12 Payable
13 Therefore
14 A Great Lake
15 "CSI" evidence
16 Karate level
18 Popular condiment
20 That girl
21 — Stanley Gardner
24 Light-headed
28 Winter road hazard
32 Pop
33 Help
34 Urban palls
36 Chum
37 Huff and puff
39 Shiner
41 Bewildered
43 Concept
44 Clear the tables
46 Hosiery material
50 Result of a star's collapse
55 Time of your life?
56 Peru's capital
57 Stench
58 Expert
59 Squad
60 Nervous
61 Corral

DOWN
1 Tosses in
2 Albacore, e.g.
3 Repast
4 Goes ashore
5 It starts with "http"
6 — Khan
7 Ness or Lomond
8 Scattered odds and ends
9 Anger
10 Have a bug
11 Allow
17 St. Bernard's load
19 Moment
22 Arm or leg
23 Meat contaminant
25 Ninny
26 Crucial time
27 Harvard's rival
28 Ali —
29 Spring-like tune
30 Commotions
31 "Zounds!"
35 Landscapes
38 Online video equipment
40 Singer Starr
42 Diving bird
45 Old woman's home?
47 Reindeer herder, probably
48 Shrek, for one
49 Night light
50 Short-order sandwich
51 Whopper
52 "I — Camera"
53 Peculiar
54 Journal

Solution time: 21 mins.

A	B	E	T		M	A	G	I		P	T	A
M	I	N	I		A	L	U	M		O	A	R
P	O	S	T	H	A	S	T	E		S	K	I
			L	I	M	O		A	C	T	E	D
G	A	P	E	S			A	N	O	N		
R	O	O	D		S	E	M	I	N	A	R	S
I	N	S		L	I	M	I	I		I	A	O
D	E	T	R	I	T	U	S		D	A	Γ	T
		M	U	L	E			M	E	L	T	S
S	E	A	M	Y		A	E	O	N			
P	A	R		P	O	S	T	P	O	N	E	D
A	S	K		A	R	I	A		T	I	R	F
Y	E	S		D	E	A	L		E	L	A	N

Yesterday's answer 1-18

1	2	3	■	4	5	6	7	■	8	9	10	11
12			■	13				■	14			
15			■	16				17				
18			19		■	■	20			■	■	■
■	■	■	21		22	23	■	24		25	26	27
28	29	30					31	■	32			
33			■	34				35	■	36		
37			38	■	39				40			
41				42	■	43				■	■	■
■	■	■	44		45	■	■	46		47	48	49
50	51	52				53	54		■	55		
56				■	57					58		
59				■	60					61		

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jason Segel, 32; Jesse L. Martin, 43; Mark Messier, 51; Kevin Costner, 57.

Happy Birthday: Use charm, diplomacy and your uncanny ability to say a lot without revealing much, and you will get ahead. Change to the way you live and what you do to earn your keep is apparent. Use your imagination and you will build a strong base for future projects and profits. Take responsibility and you will excel. Your numbers are 7, 13, 20, 22, 28, 35, 48.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Hold on to your opinion until you decipher what everyone else thinks or is going to do. It's important not to act impulsively, even if you are sure you are right. Steer clear of anyone trying to involve you in a secret encounter. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Put time and effort into learning, helping and expressing your thoughts and intentions. Relationships with loved ones can be enhanced easily with a gesture of kindness. A professional partnership will pay off. Responsibilities will equal greater income. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Don't reveal your feelings. Focus on changes that must be made to improve a situation. Someone at work will not give you all the information you require to do a proper job. Jealousy is apparent. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): You'll learn from the people you hang out with. Market what you have to offer and see what kind of response you receive. A partnership will help you accomplish more in a shorter period of time. Home improvements will pay off. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Make plans to socialize or to get involved in an activity that is physically and mentally challenging. You will do your best under pressure and can outmaneuver just about anyone you come up against. Opportunities will result from the way you perform. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Take a break. Do something you've always wanted to do. The enjoyment you get from a new hobby or the friendship you form with someone you just met will be worth your time and effort. Don't let a personal relationship hold you back. ✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Travel plans may be met with opposition. Someone will want to control or push you. You need time to decide what your next move will be. Separate business from personal, and consider where you really want to spend your time. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Put more effort into a project that has been causing uncertainty. Finish what you start before you move in a new direction. You'll be surprised at the interest shown in something you have all but written off. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Anxiety mixed with emotion can cause a disruption in your personal or professional life. Don't give in to the bait set by someone who is trying to make you look bad. Concentrate on the positives you have to offer. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Live and laugh. Enjoy what people have to say. Your acceptance of others will help your reputation and bring you favors in return. Love is on the rise, and experience will come in handy now. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Emotional responses will not be based on truth. You will have to dig deep if you really want to know how someone feels about what you are doing or have done in the past. Honesty will clear up past mistakes. ✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Put a little love in your life. Travel plans or getting involved in something that will improve your lifestyle or outlook should be considered. Taking on a creative or innovative project will help you see life differently. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are calculating, shrewd and eager to play. You are a powerful competitor.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

2		6				9		
	3		5		9		7	
		8				3		
	7		1		6		2	4
				4				
	8	2	7	9	3	1	5	
		7				5		
		3				4		
			9	2	7			

Difficulty Level ★★★ 1/18

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

7	5	4	8	6	9	2	3	1
3	9	1	4	2	5	8	7	6
8	2	6	1	3	7	4	9	5
4	1	9	7	8	2	5	6	3
6	7	5	3	9	4	1	8	2
2	8	3	6	5	1	9	4	7
5	4	2	9	7	6	3	1	8
1	6	8	5	4	3	7	2	9
9	3	7	2	1	8	6	5	4

Difficulty level ★★ 1/2

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

ORGANIZING YOUR CLOSETS — Solution: 9 letters

S	K	C	A	L	S	T	A	O	C	H	H	E	L	P
R	E	A	D	Y	A	S	E	S	U	O	L	B	U	F
S	S	G	A	B	D	N	A	H	U	L	D	R	L	S
T	H	Y	A	R	D	B	O	S	E	D	S	O	T	P
N	I	E	S	G	E	C	E	I	L	E	O	E	I	E
E	R	R	L	T	G	K	D	L	T	R	K	L	H	N
M	T	A	T	V	E	U	A	O	S	C	L	I	S	D
R	S	E	E	E	E	M	L	S	O	O	N	F	E	R
A	R	W	P	L	S	S	E	P	W	R	C	U	R	E
G	N	I	G	N	A	H	L	C	S	N	S	K	F	S
G	N	U	H	C	T	A	A	H	T	E	L	C	S	S
G	K	O	E	O	S	S	O	B	R	R	U	L	E	S
U	C	D	L	T	E	E	L	B	I	S	N	E	S	T
T	A	C	I	S	S	E	R	P	K	T	Ⓗ	Ⓐ	Ⓣ	Ⓢ
R	R	C	N	E	A	T	N	E	S	S	S	N	E	R

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Better, Blouses, Cedar, Clean, Clothes, Coats, Corners, Doors, Dress, File, Floors, Fresh, Functional, Garments, Habits, Handbags, Hanging, Hats, Help, Holder, Housekeeping, Hung, Learn, Long, Luggage, Neatness, Pillowcases, Plastic, Pockets, Press, Purse, Rack, Ready, Rules, Sensible, Shelves, Shirts, Shoes, Skirts, Slacks, Small, Socks, Spend, System, Wear, Yard

Yesterday's Answer: Agenda

CLASSIFIED ADS

WHATZIT Solution: Sharpshooter

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Lower Navy Hill Apts. Newly renovated bldg., 3BR & 2BTH. Rooms w/ A/C & fully furnished. Back-up generator. Free Wi-Fi, EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Nightime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

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1-Operation Manager.	College Graduate. 10+ years work experience. Must be able to read, write and speak English and Chinese Language. Knowledge in Korean and Japanese language is a plus. Basic Computer skill required.
4-Branch Manager.	College Graduate. 10+ years work experience. Must be able to read, write and speak English and Chinese Language. Basic Computer skill required.
6-Assistant Manager.	5 years work experience. Must fulfill jobs assigned from Managers. Basic Computer skill required. Must be able to read, write and speak English and Chinese Language.

Interested applicants may send resume to PMB 62 Box 10003, Saipan, MP 96950

JOE HILL, Esq.,
HILL LAW OFFICES
P.O. Box 500917, Saipan, MP 96950
Phone: (670) 234-6806/7743
Fax: (670) 234-7753

Attorney for Petitioner

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

TEOFILO V. MOLINYAWE, Petitioner, versus **SONIA REGIS-MOLINYAWE,** Respondent.	**FCD DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 11-0470** **SUMMONS**

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Petition for Divorce which is given you herewith, within thirty (30) days after service of this Summons upon you.

YOUR ANSWER SHOULD BE IN WRITING and filed with the Clerk of Court, Guma' Hustisia, Ilimwal Aweewee, House of Justice, P.O. Box 500307, Saipan, MP 96950 and served upon petitioner's counsel, Atty. Joe Hill, P.O. Box 500917, Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for your to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Petition for Divorce.

By order of the above Court:

Dated this 13th day of October, 2011.

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court
Superior Court

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Fisher's late 3 pushes Lakers past Mavericks

LOS ANGELES (AP)— Derek Fisher hit a tiebreaking 3-pointer with 3.1 seconds to play and the Los Angeles Lakers survived a dismal offensive game by both teams for a 73-70 victory over the Mavericks on Monday night, snapping Dallas' five-game winning streak.

Vince Carter missed a 3-pointer at the buzzer for the defending champion Mavericks, who swept Los Angeles out of the second round of the postseason last spring, ending the Lakers' bid for a three-peat.

Neither team looked much like a championship contender in their first meeting since, with 3 1/2 miserable offensive quarters before the exciting finish.

Fisher scored 13 points and led a 10-0 run midway through the fourth quarter, but the Mavericks rallied to tie it on Jason Terry's running jumper at the top of the key with 9.9 seconds left.

Kobe Bryant, whose streak of four straight 40-point games ended with just 14 against the Mavs, drew the Dallas defense before passing to Fisher. The veteran point guard calmly drilled a long 3-pointer from the wing.

Carter's desperation try was far off, and the Lakers celebrated their ninth consecutive home victory since Christmas.

Andrew Bynum had 17 points and 15 rebounds for the Lakers, who have won six of seven overall despite barely scoring 70 points—the franchise low in the shot-clock era, set in November 2002.

Dirk Nowitzki scored 21 points for the Mavericks, but committed a crucial traveling violation with 38 seconds left in their first loss since Jan. 5. Lamar Odom scored 10 points in his return to Staples Center, where he won two championships before the Lakers abruptly traded him to Dallas last month.

Two elite NBA franchises might have showed the strain of the NBA's compacted schedule, or the excitement of the playoff rematch—or maybe they both just stunk.

Airballs, turnovers and missed assignments dominated play, which included a seven-point third quarter by the Lakers and 35 percent shooting by the Mavericks, who extended their string of exceptional defensive performances.

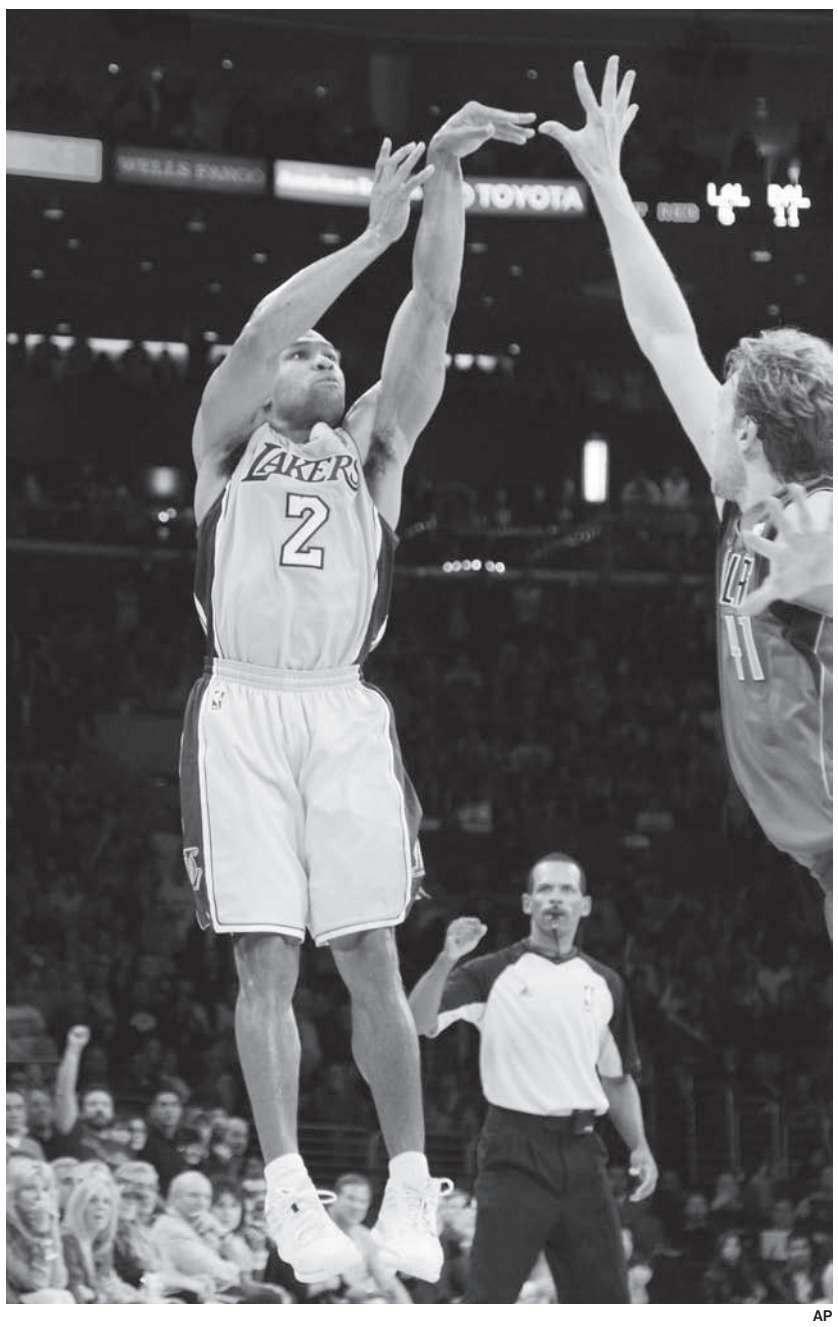
Pau Gasol, whose struggles in last year's playoff series played a huge role in the Lakers' losses, had just eight points on 3-of-11 shooting, while Dallas' Jason Kidd went 0 for 8 on 3-pointers and Terry was 2 for 9 from the field until his tying basket.

Bryant had scored at least 40 points in each of his past four games, but the NBA's leading scorer even didn't score until midway through the second quarter.

At least the Lakers have their first chance to recover from the lockout-compacted NBA schedule: After matching the league high with 15 games in 23 days, Los Angeles has consecutive days off for the first time this season before Thursday's game at Miami.

Odom demanded the trade when his feelings were hurt after a deal fell apart to send him to New Orleans for Chris Paul, but the reigning Sixth Man of the Year is still struggling to fit in Dallas.

Odom's return added another layer of intrigue to the Lakers' first matchup with the Mavericks since Dallas' 36-point win in the playoff clincher. That game ended with thuggish behavior by Bynum, who earned a four-game suspension for his harsh fouls in coach Phil Jackson's final game with Los Angeles.



AP

Los Angeles Lakers' Derek Fisher hits the game winning three-pointer over Dallas Mavericks' Dirk Nowitzki with less than five seconds left in an NBA basketball game in Los Angeles on Monday, Jan. 16, 2012.

Odom said it was "surreal" to be in the visitors' locker room at Staples Center, his home for the past seven seasons. The Staples Center crowd greeted Odom with a lengthy standing ovation when he entered the game midway through the first quarter, and the Lakers played a video tribute on the scoreboard at the ensuing timeout.

76ers 94, Bucks 82

In Philadelphia, Jrue Holiday scored 24 points and Andre Iguodala had 21 to help the Philadelphia 76ers beat the Milwaukee Bucks 94-82 and remain unbeaten at home.

Andrew Bogut returned from concussion-like symptoms to lead the Bucks with 20 points and 11 rebounds.

Thunder 97, Celtics 88

In Boston, Russell Westbrook scored 26 points, hitting a pair of 3-pointers in the final 91 seconds to help Oklahoma City pull away from slumping Boston.

Kevin Durant scored 28 with seven rebounds for the Thunder, who won their seventh consecutive game. Thabo Sefolosha scored 12 of his 19 points in the fourth quarter, and Kendrick Perkins had seven points and five rebounds in his first game back in Boston since the trade that sent him to Oklahoma City and broke up the starting lineup from the Celtics' 2008 NBA championship team.

Paul Pierce scored 24 points and Kevin Garnett had 12 points and 12 rebounds for the Celtics. Rajon Rondo added 12 points, nine rebounds and nine assists for Boston.

Magic 102, Knicks 93

In New York, Ryan Anderson scored a career-high 30 points, extending his NBA lead with seven 3-pointers, as Orlando completed a perfect four-game road trip.

JJ Redick added 21 points for the Magic, who won three games on the West Coast before finishing in New York and will play at home the next two nights to wrap up a stretch of three games in three nights.

Howard was in foul trouble and finished with eight points and 10 rebounds.

Carmelo Anthony had 33 points and eight rebounds for the Knicks in his return from a one-game absence with a sprained right ankle, but shot just 9 of 27.

Clippers 101, Nets 91

In Los Angeles, Blake Griffin had 23 points and 14 rebounds as the Clippers beat New Jersey without injured point guard Chris Paul after blowing an 18-point lead.

Chauncey Billups scored nine of his 20 points in the final 4:23 — including a clinching 3-pointer with 1:09 left.

MarShon Brooks led New Jersey with 19 points and eight rebounds. Deron Williams finished with 14 points and six assists.

Grizzlies 102, Bulls 86

In Memphis, Tennessee, Rudy Gay scored 24 points and Mike Conley added 20 points and eight assists to help Memphis end Chicago's five-game winning streak.

The Bulls played without leading scorer Derrick Rose, who missed his second game in the last four with a left toe sprain.

Marc Gasol had 19 points and 10 rebounds while Marreese Speights finished with 16 points and 12 rebounds as Memphis extended its winning streak to three games.

Luol Deng led the Bulls with 20 points and C.J. Watson finished with 17 points. Taj Gibson had 16 points and Carlos Boozer added 13 points and seven rebounds.

Rockets 114, Wizards 106

In Washington, Kevin Martin scored 25 points and Samuel Dalembert added 20 as Houston broke away in the third quarter to beat Washington.

John Wall scored a career-high 38 points on 13 of 22 shooting for the Wizards. He began the game making under 35 percent this season.

Luis Scola had 18 and Kyle Lowry had 16 for the Rockets in their highest-scoring game of the season.

Cavaliers 102, Bobcats 94

In Charlotte, North Carolina, Kyrie Irving had 25 points and seven assists to lead Cleveland past Charlotte.

Antawn Jamison added 20 points and seven rebounds for the Cavs, who returned to .500 on the season.

Omri Casspi played a big role in Cleveland's second half comeback with 14 points and seven rebounds with most of his damage coming in the third quarter.

D.J. Augustin led the Bobcats with 24 points and eight assists and Gerald Henderson added 17 points.

Trail Blazers 84, Hornets 77

In New Orleans, LaMarcus Aldridge scored 22 points as Portland beat New Orleans to end a three-game losing streak.

Nicolas Batum add 19 points and Gerald Wallace 14 for the Trail Blazers, who blew open a tie game early in the third quarter with a 17-2 run during which Aldridge made all five of his shots for 10 points.

Hawks 93, Raptors 84

In Atlanta, Josh Smith scored 28 points and pulled down a season-high 15 rebounds, and Joe Johnson added 27 points to help Atlanta win its third straight game.

Leandro Barbosa finished with 22 points in a reserve role for Toronto, which has lost five straight. The Raptors were without center Andrea Bargnani, the NBA's ninth-leading scorer, for the third straight game because of a strained left calf. Reserve guard James Johnson didn't play because of a sprained right ankle.

Timberwolves 99, Kings 86

In Minneapolis, Kevin Love had 33 points and 11 rebounds, and Luke Ridnour added 25 points and nine assists to lead Minnesota over Sacramento.

Wayne Ellington scored 15 off the bench for the Timberwolves, a significant contribution for a backcourt that was missing J.J. Barea for the third straight game because of a sprained left ankle.

Tyreke Evans had nine points, 10 assists and eight rebounds but shot just 3 of 11 from the field as the Kings lost for the fifth time in six games. Jason Thompson and Marcus Thornton led Sacramento with 12 points each.

US names 20-player men's Olympic basketball pool

NEW YORK (AP)— This U.S. basketball team might be even better than the last two that won gold medals.

"This will be the most talented of the three teams that I've had the opportunity to coach," coach Mike Krzyzewski said Monday during a conference call.

The Americans announced the 20 players who will be candidates for the London Games, adding Blake Griffin of the Clippers and LaMarcus Aldridge of Portland to the 18 holdovers from either the 2008 Olympics or 2010 world championship who have said they wish to be considered again.

The 12-man roster and alternates for the Olympics will be chosen from the new player pool in June.

Returning from the team that won gold in Beijing are: Kobe Bryant, LeBron James, Dwyane Wade, Chris Bosh, Carmelo Anthony, Dwight Howard, Chris Paul and Deron Williams. Back from the reigning world champions are: Kevin Durant, Derrick Rose, Tyson Chandler, Eric Gordon, Rudy Gay, Kevin Love, Lamar Odom, Chauncey Billups, Russell Westbrook and Andre Iguodala.

"I like the fact that we have a roster full of guys who've been champions, either in the Olympics or world championships, and guys who are excited to play," Krzyzewski said.

USA Basketball chairman Jerry Colangelo had planned to add Griffin to the national team roster in 2009, but he was hurt shortly after being selected with the No. 1 overall pick and those plans were scrapped. Aldridge was on the national team roster but withdrew from consideration for the 2010 worlds for personal reasons.

But both have a shot now if the Americans decide to bolster the frontcourt on a roster loaded with point guards and wing players. And it's an experienced group, with Anthony playing in 59 games for the U.S. and James 55.

"To be on that list, I'm honored again, to be able to represent my country at the highest level. I mean, it's an unbelievable class. We've got an unbelievable group coming in and I'm looking forward to it," James said.

The final roster of 12 players and six alternates is due June 18, before the NBA finals will be completed in this lockout-delayed season, so there will be no time for a tryout camp. But USA Basketball needed to submit the list of all candidates by the end of this month so they could be entered in the drug-testing program.

The Americans will have to decide how many point guards to keep from a list that includes Rose, the NBA MVP, Paul; Williams, Westbrook and Billups—though he started at shooting guard in Istanbul, as he does now playing alongside Paul on the Clippers.

Championship pedigree shows for Brady, Eli

By BARRY WILNER
AP PRO FOOTBALL WRITER

The playoffs have a way of bringing out the pedigree in NFL quarterbacks. Simply take a look at the fingers of Tom Brady and Eli Manning to recognize it.

Brady has three Super Bowl rings, with another taken away by Manning and the Giants in 2008. Both have their teams on course for a reprise of that memorable title game.

Standing in their way are two inconsistent QBs seeking to fill out their own championship resumes: Joe Flacco of Baltimore and Alex Smith of San Francisco.

Based on their histories and the way they have performed this season, Brady and Manning overmatch Flacco and Smith. When things have gotten tight for New England or New York, the quarterback often has provided the winning edge.

"The team revolves around him," Patriots tight end Aaron Hernandez said of Brady. "When he comes to play, which he mostly does every game, then we're going to be on fire, and when he's ready, we're all ready."

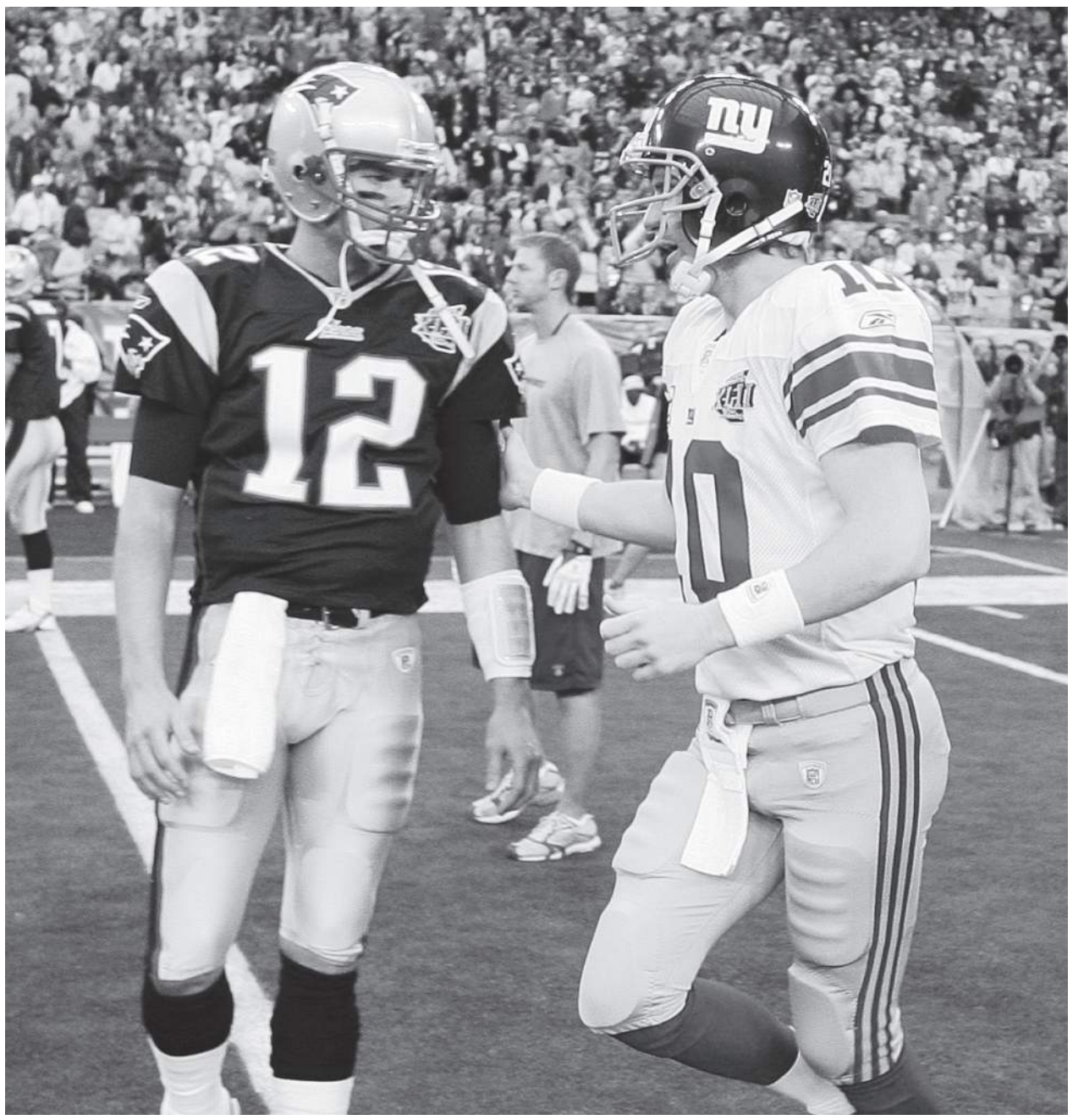
Ditto for Manning. Even when the Giants hit a four-game slide that jeopardized making the playoffs, he stood out.

"He's just been great," said receiver Victor Cruz, who had a breakout season with Manning throwing to him. "He understands the defense, he understands what we can see on every single down and every single coverage and he's just making the right reads and really hitting people when the time is right."

The time certainly is right. For a decade, it's been Brady time once New Year's Day hits. In early 2008, it also was Manning time.

It is again.

Brady was as good as ever in Saturday's romp past outmanned Denver. His six TD passes tied Steve Young and Daryle Lamonica for the NFL record. His five in one half were the most ever.



AP

In this Feb. 3, 2008 file photo, New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady (12) and New York Giants quarterback Eli Manning meet on the field before the Super Bowl XLII football game at University of Phoenix Stadium in Glendale, Ariz.

Sure, he's got superb targets in All-Pros Wes Welker at wideout and Rob Gronkowski at tight end, plus Hernandez and Deion Branch, who is something of a security blanket for Brady. He also makes them outstanding with his precise passes, leadership and competitiveness.

It rubs off.

"We never look at the individual. We all try and do our job," defensive tackle Vince Wilfork said. "If (Brady) plays well, everyone else plays well. When he has an off day, we try to rally around him as a team to help Tom and the offense. We aren't going to get 20-30 points all the time."

Thirty certainly could be difficult against Baltimore's staunch defense. But 20 might be enough if Flacco doesn't come through.

Something of a surprise first-round draft choice in 2008 out of Delaware, he's helped the Ravens make the playoffs in all four of his NFL seasons. In great part, Flacco has been along for the ride as opposed to driving the vehicle the way Brady does.

He also doesn't have nearly the talent to throw to, with the exception of running back Ray Rice, who led the NFL with 2,068 total yards. His offensive line is spotty.

For Baltimore to reach its first Super Bowl since 2001—oh, yeah, the QB then was Trent Dilfer, and Flacco is a far better player than Dilfer was—some of Brady has to rub off on Flacco.

Smith finally has become comfortable in San Francisco thanks to new coach Jim Harbaugh's guidance and confidence in the seven-year veteran. The 49ers are efficient on offense with a strong running game behind Frank Gore, and a tight end, Vernon Davis, who displayed all his skills in a sensational playoff debut against New Orleans.

To expect Smith to trade throws with Saints star Drew Brees was unthinkable, yet there he was, making clutch pass after clutch pass in the late stages of Saturday's thrilling win. If he's capable of a similar performance against the Giants, it would enhance San Francisco's chances immeasurably.

"He deserves all this," Gore said of Smith's revival. "He's had some tough times. But I always believed he could play at this level. We have the right people leading us. And he's got the right people leading him."

Leading the 49ers to the Super Bowl means beating Manning and the Giants. The Niners did it in November when Smith made just enough key plays. That's been his style this season, a style Manning once adhered to.

Now, Manning is as much a playmaker as his older brother, Peyton, has been. Or as Brady is.

Indeed, another title will give him the championship lead in his family, adding yet another shiny achievement to Eli's resume. But he'd still be behind Brady.

For now, Smith and Flacco can only wonder if they have what it takes to grab the ring.

Djokovic, Kvitova advance; Stosur out in 1st round

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—U.S. Open champion Sam Stosur crashed out in the first round of the Australian Open in straight sets Tuesday in a major blow for local fans desperate to end a long drought at the national championship.

Sixth-seeded Stosur lost 7-6 (2), 6-3 to No. 59-ranked Sorana Cirstea of Romania to continue her terrible run at home since beating Serena Williams to capture her first Grand Slam title in New York last September.

Stosur has had one win in three tournaments on home soil in 2012.

After saving three match points, Stosur finally lost it when her looping forehand drifted over the baseline to hush the Rod Laver Arena crowd on the second day of the tournament.

No Australian has won the national title since Chris O'Neil in 1978.

Stosur's first-round loss mirrors that of Petra Kvitova, who went out in the first round of last year's U.S. Open after winning Wimbledon. After winning the French Open, Li Na lost in the second round at Wimbledon and the first round of the U.S. Open.

"We all saw what happened last year and now I've kind of gone through that same trend," Stosur said. "I don't know why it seems to be happening more often than not right now. I'm sure if we could all change the way we've responded straight after winning a Grand Slam, we would have."

Cirstea hadn't beaten Stosur in both their previous matches and is slightly concerned now about being public enemy No. 1, saying: "Probably the whole country hates me now."

The other three women's major winners from 2011 are into the second round after Kvitova advanced in straight sets Tuesday. Australian champion Kim Clijsters and Li Na are in the other half.

Novak Djokovic had no problems recently after winning a major. Anyone who didn't know he won three of the four Grand Slam titles last year only had to look at his shoes on Tuesday.

Djokovic started his Australian Open defense with a 6-2, 6-0, 6-0 win over Paolo Lorenzi of Italy, wearing a pair of red-white-and-blue shoes with images of his three major trophies on the sides and a Serbian flag on the heels.

He gave up an early break but immediately broke back at love as he won the next 17 games, saving a break point in the opening game of the second set.

"It was a great performance for (my) first official match of the 2012 season," said the top-ranked Djokovic, whose only lost at a Grand Slam tournament last year was in the French Open semifinals.

Andy Murray, who lost last year's final to Djokovic and the 2010 decider to Roger Federer, struggled early before beating American Ryan Harrison 4-6, 6-3, 6-4, 6-2 on Hisense Arena.

If seedings remain on course, he could meet Djokovic in the semifinals. No. 2 Rafael Nadal and No. 3 Federer are on the same half of the draw and both moved on to the second round with wins on Monday. Nadal advanced only hours after an injury scare on Sunday when he hurt his right knee.

Djokovic, who surpassed both Nadal and Federer in the rankings last year, decided not to play any warmup tournaments before the Australian Open and was confident it wouldn't harm his chances.

"I'm nowadays a more complete player. I feel physically I'm stronger, I move better. I serve better," he said. "Especially having 2011 the way I had, this gives me more confidence."

The 24-year-old Serb has won two Australian titles—including his first major in 2008—and his game is well suited to the pace of the hard court. But he struggled at times with the heat at Melbourne Park before his breakthrough season last year and didn't always look comfortable against Lorenzi as the temperature hit 90 degrees in the first set.

It didn't stop him from entertaining his fans, though. He played a shot between his legs, with his back to the net, to set up a break point chance in the fourth game of the third set which brought the crowd to its feet.

Other men advancing included No. 5 David Ferrer, No. 9 Janko Tipsarevic, No. 14 Gael Monfils, No. 17 Richard Gasquet, No. 23 Milos Raonic of Canada, No. 24 Kei Nishikori of Japan, No. 27 Juan Ignacio Chela of Argentina and No. 32 Alex Bogomolov Jr., now representing Russia. Germany's Philipp Petzschner routed Czech Republic's Lukas Rosol 6-0, 6-0, 6-2 to advance.

On the women's side, second-ranked Kvitova and No. 4 Maria Sharapova advanced with lopsided wins.

After surrendering her opening service game with a double-fault, Kvitova won 12 consecutive games in a 6-2, 6-0 win over Russia's Vera Dushevina.

Kvitova reached the quarterfinals here last year at the start of a season in which she surged up the rankings.

Last week, she missed a chance to overhaul Caroline Wozniacki's No. 1 ranking when she lost in the Sydney International semifinals. She needed to win the Sydney tournament to take the top ranking.

But she gets another chance at Melbourne Park, where she was one of six women who started the tournament with a shot at finishing with the No. 1 spot.

Sharapova, a former Australian Open and Wimbledon champion, won the first eight games of a 6-0, 6-1 win over Gisela Dulko of Argentina in her first match since returning from an left ankle injury.

The 2008 champion needed just 58 minutes for the win.

Other women advancing included No. 14 Sabine Lisicki, No. 17 Dominika Cibulkova, No. 27 Maria Kirilenko, Canada's Aleksandra Wozniak, Shahar Peer of Israel and 2000 Wimbledon semifinalist Jelena Dokic.

Serena Williams, a 13-time Grand Slam winner, will play a night match against Tamira Paszek. She didn't get to defend her title last year because of injury and comes into the season's first major with concern over her left ankle.

Team Sufa holds softball fundraiser

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Team Sufa will be holding a fundraising softball tournament from Jan. 27 to Jan. 29 at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

Interested teams are requested to attend a technical meeting on Jan. 25 at 6pm at the pavilion behind the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. Entrance fee is $100 per team. There is no deadline to register, however, the first 15 teams to pay in full will land a spot on the double-elimination bracket.

By rule, two female players must be on every team and at least one must play out in the field at all times. Both must remain in the batting line up. There is a maximum of 15 players per team.

The bracket will be randomly formulated and the event is scheduled to kick off at 6pm on Friday. From there games will run all day through Saturday and Sunday, starting at 10am.

The winning team gets to choose between a full grown male or female deer, while various consolation prizes will also be awarded to participating teams.

Sufa in Chamorro is a verb that translates into pushing or hitting something. The group is a non-profit organization that essentially raises its own funds through out the year to represent the CNMI in the popular CNMI Labor Day Softball Tournament held in the mainland.

This year marks the eighth Labor Day event and Sufa's fifth appearance. Unfortunately, Sufa was the first team eliminated last year, but was awarded the Sportsmanship trophy. To step up its game, Sufa has acquired some new younger players.

The Labor Day tournament started with 16 teams and at one point grew to 31 total squads in 2008. It all began as a friendly tournament organized by a small group of CNMI players living in the mainland and simply wanted to meet up together for some camaraderie and healthy competition. From there, the event has grown remarkably in popularity, so much in fact that organizers recently voted to apply stricter eligibility rules.

Over the years, many stateside teams have been recruiting players of non-CNMI decent, which has negatively changed the fabric of the event.

The eligibility rules were amended in recent years to support the sole purpose of the CNMI-affiliated competition. The rule change requires all players to either be born from at least some CNMI lineage or be of relation through marriage.

As a result of the change, the pool shrunk down to 21 teams in 2011 and a similar number is expected to turn out in this year's competition, which will be held for the second time in Boise, Idaho.

The event hops around to a different city every year and eligibility rules may change from year to year depending on what the host teams elect to do. In the past, the tournament was held in Las Vegas, Seattle, San Diego, and Portland. Teams from Idaho, California, Washington, Hawaii, Arizona, Nevada, and the CNMI have all participated in past events.

For more information about the fundraiser, contact SUFA's Joe Flores at 483-7848 or SUFA secretary Alfred Camacho at 287-3818 or email teamsufa@gmail.com.

Chamolinian softball league eyes February 24 opening

The Chamolinian Softball Association is pushing for a Feb. 24 opening for the 2012 Slow-pitch Softball League at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

The annual competition will feature 15 teams each in the men's and women's divisions and squads will be accepted on a first come, first serve basis.

Registration fees and game schedule will be announced later, but teams are advised to start preparing for the league.

For more information, contact Liz Palacios-Olouachel at 287-8869 or Mark Palacios at 322-7444. ***(PR)***

SPORTS

From Page 28

of Education, Department of Public Works, and Office of the Governor.

Other stated NMASA powers and responsibilities in the latest bill are to charge reasonable fees for the use of sports facilities and field within the complex; exclusive rights to award vending and advertising rights at the complex; receive, hold, and expend funds and property necessary or appropriate to accomplish the purpose of the corporation; and submit and prepare a budget and copy should be provided to the DCCA secretary.

NMASA or Division of Sports and Rec

Pending action on the latest bill, the present set up has staff of Division of Sports and Recreation, which is under DCCA, in charge of the Oleai complex. The division also receives facilities usage payments (like the $1 per visit at the weight room adjacent to the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium), while DCCA has entered into a contract with the Korean pro baseball team LG Twins for the usage of the baseball fields at the complex.

By law (as per PL 4-66), NMASA should be the one doing these tasks. However "Executive Order 94-3 placed the said agency (NMASA) under the purview of the Division of Sports and Recreation," as stated in an email DCCA Secretary Melvin Faisao sent to concerned agencies/individuals in 2010 and copy furnished to *Saipan Tribune* in response to the introduction of HB 17-112. Faisao in an email to *Saipan Tribune* yesterday declined to comment on the latest bill, which if approve, will repeal a section of Executive Order 94-3 that placed NMASA under the wing of the Division of Sports and Recreation.

The latest bill (under transitional provisions) also states that the DCCA secretary may transfer unobligated appropriations for the Division of Sports and Recreation to NMASA, which may expend such fund for general purposes without restrictions.

NMASA president Michael White on the other hand has yet to respond to *Saipan Tribune*'s email, requesting for a comment on Tebuteb's latest bill.

White in an earlier email to *Saipan Tribune* in response to Tebuteb's earlier HB 17-112 said "for many years, NMASA has strongly supported the prospect of assuming responsibility for the administration of sports facilities in the Northern Marianas. We believe that, as a non-governmental organization devoted solely to the sporting community, we can do a better job of managing these facilities, for the benefit of everyone who uses them.

"However, it is clear that there is no way that these facilities can be self-sustaining based solely upon revenues derived from user fees and charges. For this reason, if we are going to assume responsibility for management of these facilities, we would need an annual appropriation, sufficient to cover personnel and other operational costs. If such an appropriation is part of the proposed legislation, I am certain that NMASA will support it."

Saipan Tribune learned that NMASA submitted a budget proposal to DCCA last fiscal year, but DCCA's budget proposal forwarded to the governor did not include NMASA's request.

MINOR

From Page 28

France, Hong Kong, New Zealand, Mexico, Australia, Taipei, Singapore, Latvia, Serbia, Hawaii, and Poland.

So far Minor, who is still in the Land Down Under watching games at the 2012 Australian Open, and 43 other players are in the main draw and these netters are either top-ranked in their respective nation or hold ranking points in the Junior ITF circuit. Japan's Yukina Saigo is the highest-ranked player in the field with her No. 360 ranking, followed by Tere-Apisah (No. 368), New Zealand's Claudia Williams (No. 397), Hong Kong's Carina Ma Ka Man (No. 478), and Mexico's Carmen Araceli Cordoba (No. 479).

Minor's first tournament in New Zealand is a Grade 4 event, which gives 40 ranking points to the champion, 30 to runner-up, 20 to semifinalist, 15 to quarterfinalists, and 10 to losers in the Round of 16. The Saipan Southern High School student is aiming to become the first female CNMI junior player to earn Junior ITF ranking points. Ji Hoon Heo was the first CNMI player to receive the coveted ranking points when he joined in the same tournaments Minor is scheduled to compete in.

Minor's second tournament in New Zealand will be the U18 ITF Summer Champs, which will run from Jan. 29 to Feb. 8 in Auckland. This time, the Commonwealth netter is in the qualifying draw, along with 25 other players. She needs at least two wins to make it to the main draw.

The competition in Auckland offers more ranking points, as it is a Grade 3 event. Sixty ranking point go to the champion, 45 to runner-up, 30 to semifinalists, 20 to quarterfinalists, and 15 to losers in the Round of 16.

Minor's last stop in New Zealand will be Wellington and she will participate in the Tennis Central U18 Junior ITF Tournament from Feb. 7 to 11. Again, Minor has to go through a qualifying event to advance to the main draw of her last competition in New Zealand. The Wellington event is a Grade 4 competition.

NMIVA

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all fourth place pool finisher.

Game point for pool play is set at 15 with a cap limit of 21. The semifinals and finals matches will be played to 21 with a cap of 25.

Depending on the turnout, event organizers reserve the right to adjust the game scoring in order to fit in all the games on the three courts.

Various prize packages are up for grabs to the winners, while proceeds from the event will go towards the NMIVA Development Fund.

In his NMIVA letter, Mister also requested early confirmation from interested parties by Wednesday in order to have an idea of how close organizers are to filling its 25-team limit. Adult teams, aged 18 or older, receive precedent over youth pairs; however, youth players will be allowed to participate if space becomes available.

A late registration period will take place Saturday morning at 8:30am just before the games commence at 9am.

This event is open to the public. Entrance fee is only $20 per person and $15 per person for NMIVA members.

Last year, Mister and Melody Matson topped a 16-team field.

The duo defeated 2010 champions Randy Steele and Heather Kennedy. At one point in the match, Mister and Watson held a strong 18-10 advantage in the finals, but blew their lead and ended up in a 20-all deadlock. Mister and Watson eventually pulled it together and took the match, 23-21.

Gatorade, Gold's Gym, IP&E, IT&E, Triple J Super Fresh Market and Pacific Islands Club are sponsoring this weekend's event.

For registration or more information contact Mister at 285-3285 or email tyce.mister@gmail.com or nmivolleyball@gmail.com.

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place with 14,800 in chips behind Watanabe (15,200) and Hiriuchi (16,600).

Two hands later Watanabe was shown the door, while Murakami assumed his position with a healthy stack of 23,600 in chips. Jung and Chen also crapped out in the storm, which went to show the aggressive game strategies players employed. The law of averages held true as just six players, one of which riding on fumes, remained at the start of the very last hand.

Hakata still trailed Horiuchi, 32,800 to 29,400, with Murakami (23,600), Heo (19,000) and Nam (17,900) also in pursuit. Hakata elected to submit a secret bet of 16,000 in favor of the player; Nam also bet 17,400 on the player. Hakata was the only player to use the secret bet option and the rest of the field all bet their respective stacks on the banker.

In the end, the player turned over a Natural 9 and defeated the bank.

Notably, Murakami essentially stole third place with the measly 500 in chips that he elected not to shove into the pile. Horiuchi could have locked in a second or third place finish, but was caught greedy.

The event started with four tables of 11 players and another of a dozen. Players began the competition with a bank of 5,000 in chips during the short 20-hand elimination round and the minimum bet was set at 100. The maximum bet limit was removed, however, and the Top 2 finishers of each table advanced to the finals.

Finalists started with a bank of 10,000 in chips and played 30 hands with the same bet limits. Players also received a pair of secret bet slip in both rounds.

Meanwhile, Tinian Dynasty would like to invite tourists on Saipan to check out their new gaming machines—the Interactive Gaming and Hyperlink Jack Pot machines. These machines offer players a chance of winning big payouts with small nickel and dime bets. The Hyperlink jackpot was tipping over $6,000 as of last weekend.

The hotel also announced that the next Baccarat Challenge will be held on March 17 and 18.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	10	3	.769	—
New York	6	7	.462	4
Boston	4	8	.333	5 1/2
Toronto	4	10	.286	6 1/2
New Jersey	3	11	.214	7 1/2

Southeast Division

Orlando	9	3	.750	—
Atlanta	10	4	.714	—
Miami	8	4	.667	1
Charlotte	3	11	.214	7
Washington	1	12	.077	8 1/2

Central Division

Chicago	12	3	.800	—
Indiana	9	3	.750	1 1/2
Cleveland	6	6	.500	4 1/2
Milwaukee	4	8	.333	6 1/2
Detroit	3	10	.231	8

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

San Antonio	9	4	.692	—
Dallas	8	6	.571	1 1/2
Memphis	6	6	.500	2 1/2
Houston	6	7	.462	3
New Orleans	3	10	.231	6

Northwest Division

Oklahoma City	12	2	.857	—
Utah	8	4	.667	3
Portland	8	5	.615	3 1/2
Denver	8	5	.615	3 1/2
Minnesota	5	8	.385	6 1/2

Pacific Division

L.A. Clippers	7	3	.700	1/2
L.A. Lakers	10	5	.667	—
Phoenix	4	8	.333	4 1/2
Golden State	4	8	.333	4 1/2
Sacramento	4	10	.286	5 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Memphis 102, Chicago 86
Orlando 102, New York 93
Cleveland 102, Charlotte 94
Houston 114, Washington 106
Philadelphia 94, Milwaukee 82
Portland 84, New Orleans 77
L.A. Clippers 101, New Jersey 91
Atlanta 93, Toronto 84
Minnesota 99, Sacramento 86
Oklahoma City 97, Boston 88
L.A. Lakers 73, Dallas 70

NBA LEADERS

Scoring

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Bryant, LAL	14	163	106	448	32.0
James, MIA	11	119	84	325	29.5
Durant, OKC	13	118	78	336	25.8
Anthony, NYK	11	94	74	280	25.5
Love, MIN	12	93	91	300	25.0
Ellis, GOL	11	95	58	261	23.7
Griffin, LAC	9	85	37	208	23.1
Aldridge, POR	12	110	52	273	22.8
Bargnani, TOR	11	89	56	245	22.3
Rose, CHI	13	93	64	271	20.8
Howard, ORL	11	82	61	225	20.5
Bosh, MIA	12	90	47	230	19.2
Lee, GOL	11	88	34	210	19.1
Westbrook, OKC	13	94	52	246	18.9
Jefferson, UTA	11	91	24	206	18.7
Jennings, MIL	11	78	30	206	18.7
D. Williams, NJN	12	70	57	220	18.3
Paul, LAC	9	64	24	162	18.0
J. Johnson, ATL	13	84	39	232	17.8
Gay, MEM	11	82	25	196	17.8

FG Percentage

	FG	FGA	PCT
Gortat, PHX	80	129	.620
Hawes, PHL	53	89	.596
Howard, ORL	82	140	.586
James, MIA	119	206	.578
Monroe, DET	89	156	.571
Millsap, UTA	82	148	.554
Horford, ATL	57	103	.553
Harrington, DEN	73	132	.553
Chalmers, MIA	53	97	.546
Blair, SAN	61	113	.540

Rebounds

	G	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG
Howard, ORL	11	44	123	167	15.2
Love, MIN	12	59	116	175	14.6
Bynum, LAL	10	40	98	138	13.8
Varejao, CLE	11	53	70	123	11.2
Griffin, LAC	9	31	69	100	11.1
Gasol, MEM	11	24	96	120	10.9
Lee, GOL	11	37	79	116	10.5
Cousins, SAC	12	55	69	124	10.3
Haslem, MIA	12	32	90	122	10.2
McGee, WAS	12	37	84	121	10.1

Assists

	G	AST	AVG
Nash, PHX	11	111	10.1
Rondo, BOS	11	111	10.1
Lowry, HOU	10	93	9.3
Calderon, TOR	13	116	8.9
Rose, CHI	13	113	8.7
Paul, LAC	9	76	8.4
D. Williams, NJN	12	101	8.4
Rubio, MIN	12	100	8.3
Ellis, GOL	11	84	7.6
Jack, NOR	11	84	7.6

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DLX Basketball Invitational Friendship League Finals

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Members and supporters of Blue Haus/Satbahi pose with their trophy and check prize during the awards ceremony for the 2011 DLX Basketball Invitational Friendship League last week at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

MDX players receive the pennant trophy.

From left, league volunteers Noel David and Rick Brien, Coach of the Year Dante Olivos of Blue Haus, and game announcer Alvin Alvarez pose for group photo.

Blue Haus/Satbahi's Jun Abedes rams into the defense of MDX's Zack Babauta.

Blue Haus/Satbahi's Edwin Camacho dribbles toward the baseline against MDX's Zack Babauta.

MDX's Alex Lauron is triple-teamed by Blue Haus/Satbahi defenders.

Blue Haus/Satbahi's Badong Camacho goes up for a baseline shot against MDX's Alex Lauron and Mike Palacios.

Blue Haus/Satbahi's Brendon Talania flies high for a layup.

MDX's Ben Lisua goes up for a reverse shot.

MDX's Dexter Tenerio squeezes past his defenders.

Fisher's late 3 pushes Lakers past Mavericks

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Championship pedigree shows for Brady, Eli

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Sports complex takeover bill pushed anew

The Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium is one of the facilities inside the Oleai Sports Complex in Susupe. ROSELYN B. MONROYO

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Another bill seeking a Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association takeover of the Oleai Sports Complex facilities was introduced during yesterday's session at the House of Representatives.

House Bill 17-268, authored by Rep. Ramon A. Tebuteb (R-Saipan), is called the "Northern Marianas Sports Act" and contained similar provisions found in House Bill 17-112, which Tebuteb also introduced during a House session in October 2010. HB-17-268 also defines NMASA's specific powers and responsibilities that were missing in Public Law 4-66, which led to the establishment of NMASA in 1984.

This includes the operation, maintenance, and regulation of the sports facilities and fields within the Oleai Sports Complex in accordance with the terms and conditions of a memorandum to be executed among the corporation (NMASA), the secretary of the Department of Community and the Cultural Affairs, and the governor. In PL 4-66, NMASA is mandated to regulate the usage, operation, and maintenance of sports facilities and fields in the Commonwealth in coordination with DCCA, Department of Natural Resources, Department

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Minor in main draw of Junior ITF event

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

After completing two tournaments in Australia, CNMI junior tennis player Thea Minor is heading to New Zealand this weekend to compete in three Junior ITF events.

Minor will debut in the Sunsmart 18 & Under Summer Championships 2012 to be played in the hardcourt at the Ashburton Trust Tennis Centre in Ashburton. The 15-year-old netter is in the main draw of the girls singles event, joining fellow Oceania ITF Touring Team members Assya Trimari, Jade Pain, Sarah Vigneron, Yaelle Honakoko, and Samuelle Bull of New Caledonia, Lorish Puluspene and Marcia Tere-Apisah of Papua New Guinea, Lorraine Banimataku of Vanuatu, Annie Shannon and Tarani Kamoe of Fiji, and Alesi Molotii of Tuvalu.

The six-day tournament (Jan. 23 to 28) will also feature junior players from Japan, Korea,

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Thea Minor, seen here playing at the AMP tennis courts last year, will leave Australia for New Zealand this weekend to compete in three Junior ITF events.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Randy Steele, right, sends over a serve, while teammate Heather Kennedy gets ready during the 4th Annual Co-ed Reverse Grass Volleyball Championship last year in Navy Hill.

NMIVA hosts grass co-ed reverse v'ball

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The Northern Marianas Islands Volleyball Association is hosting the 5th Annual Coed Reverse Grass Volleyball Championship this Saturday in Navy Hill.

Games will be played in a co-ed two-member team format, so interested individuals are requested to bring their own partner.

"This is a unique event where the nets are set at the women's height, therefore male players can not hit in front of a chalked 10-foot line designated on each court, nor can men jump serve," stated event organizer Tyce Mister on the NMIVA website.

The first 25 teams to sign up will be included in the competition.

The teams will be divided into five pools of five teams. The Top 3 teams in each pool advance to the 16-team double-elimination portion of the tournament, while a special wild card entry will also be given out to the over-

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Japanese wins $60K in Baccarat Challenge

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Japanese Noritsugu Hakata came away as the Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino's first Baccarat Challenge winner of the year after topping the 56-player field tournament over the weekend

Hakata was presented with a trophy and a giant check worth $60,000 after beating runner-up Hyung Seok Nam of Korea, and third and fourth placers Kenji Murakami and Toru Horiuchi of Japan. Nam walked away with a trophy and $20,000, Murakami a trophy and $10,000 and Horiuchi received $4,000.

Six finalists were issued $1,000 consolation prizes and everyone was invited back to play in the next tournament. The list include No. 5 Ji Uk Heo of China, No. 6 Kensaku Higashi of Japan, No. 7 Noboru Watanabe of Japan, No. 8 Kang Chen and No. 9 Sun Hee Jung of China, and No. 10 Yoshihisa Kobayash of Japan.

After surviving Saturday's elimination round, Hakata came into the last four hands in third

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WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
Noritsugu Hakata, left, celebrates after receiving the $60,000 prize he won during the Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino's Baccarat Challenge Sunday night. Also pictured from left are TDHC's Casino general manager Tim Blyth and pit manager Nimfa S. Alarde.